

CHINA THE GOOD?

Maurice Strong argues that the Western media, and Maclean's, have it all wrong P.22

Maclean's

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Aug 18th 2008

WE'RE GETTING GOUGED

Canadians are **STILL** paying more than Americans for everything from lip balm to luxury cars P.32

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Chief Justice Ramon says getting dinner



²⁴ See also the discussion of the 1997 edition of *The Handbook of African Languages*, which has been superseded by the 2006 edition.

The modern-day enigma of China

A“The world says ‘I am important!’” notes Tao Te Ching (or The Way of Laozi) by ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu. “I am important because I am anonymous.”

Of all the myriad opinions, beliefs, interests and prejudices that trouble China today, that 2,300 year old belief of wisdom may be the only thing on which we can all agree. Everyone in the world knows China is important. And tonight, while intelligent observers part ways in their first observation before the second.

We continue to hold to a more skeptical view of China's progress than that advanced by Mr. Seeger, but in the role of a newsmedium, we strive to provide our readers with a range of information and opinions so that they can come to their own conclusions. This is especially evident in what the *Journal* has decided to do about

Strong builds his case for Chinese exceptionalism on the country's great success in reducing poverty. "China has raised more

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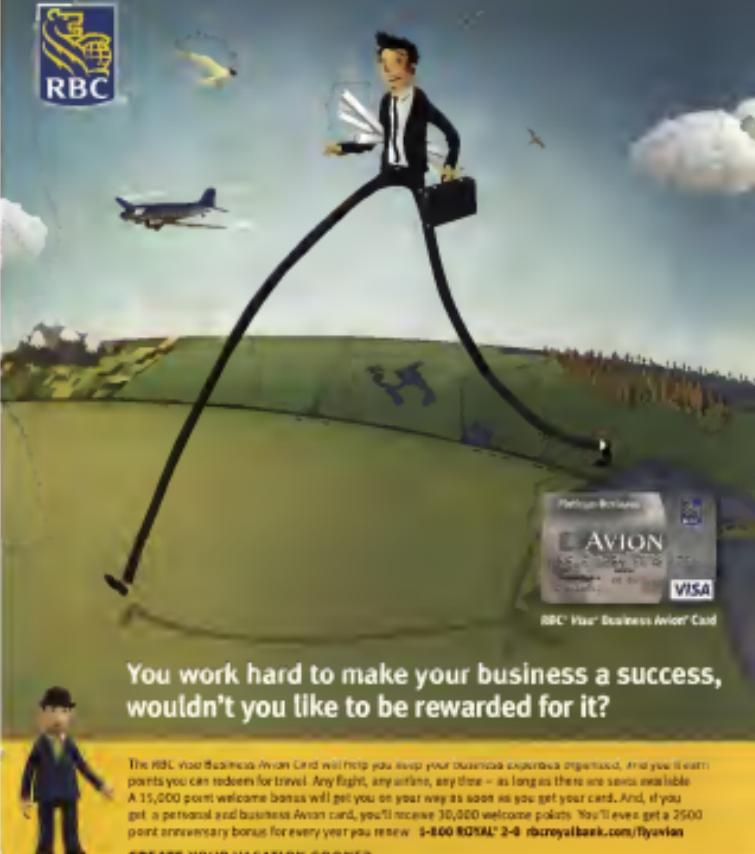
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'Conrad Black is in jail because he has never tempered his ego with an ounce of humility'

TAKING A Flier

THANK YOU for your article on the challenges of travel ("Why travel is hell," *Bonus*, July 21). My wife and I took a trip a few weeks ago that was more frustrating. When we arrived at the Air Canada ticket counter at the Ottawa airport, we were asked to point out our boarding passes, which wasted a lot of time. On the way home, we were required to obtain our own luggage tags from a computer, which was very confusing—every bag was helping unload luggage. After stretching the tag, we had to put the luggage on the conveyor belt ourselves. I am along all of this extra work, and yet the company charged me for a pillow. These are not friendly skies.

Sue Collett, Nepean, Ont.

MACLEAN'S
FLYING IS HELL

Even when it's just going to get worse
By David Weisler

SO ALLIORS are looking for ways to get rid of some weight and save on fuel costs? I have an idea: Get rid of flight attendants on short flights altogether. The service they provide is often the worst part of the flight. If you can't go to sleep without a drink of water or a coffee you shouldn't be flying anyway. The undiscerning give you no options. If you have to get up and go to the washroom, the flight attendants are in your way, though they always make you feel like it's you who's in the way. Airlines should stop just thinking to make flying pleasant.

Greg Campbell, Regis

THE PLACEMENT of Barbara Amiel's column in the Justice section is challenging, even to the most objective of readers. What is immediately clear to everyone is that if you're not an attorney or a court officer and you don't check a document's integrity and the evidence produced, you are obstructing justice. There is no question Conrad Black did just that. So, really, appellate arguments are never (in Canada or in the U.S.) an opportunity to retry cases. They are only for motions on appeal that are ripe for appellate review, not just your disappointment at the result.

Steve Glavin, Stratford, Ont.

ONCE, I read the article and wrote of it was believable. But who was that guy, with a remarkable resemblance to Conrad, shouting obscenities and why was he doing it? Mary Bailey, St. Catharines, Ont.

ANIEL'S WITCH HUNT

IN WRITING ABOUT Conrad Black's trial, Barbara Amiel aptly described her husband's orbit and her own which have "The in-

credulous," Justice, August 4. The Black's lives and careers were under a magnifying glass due to that somehow overlooked human four-course of 12 Justice? A joke indeed. Barbara's husband was convicted by jaded friends. In an historical irony, a richasson has been denied justice.

Nancy Roberts, Brookville, Ont.

ALWAYS, Barbara Amiel comes with grace and aplomb, all the more distinct since her concern is so personal. Her courage is astonishing. Her question is relevant: where is the voice of outrage over Conrad Black's treatment? Not just at the wrong end of the American justice system, but in the larger arena of public opinion, specifically here in Canada? If we as a nation are willing to pledge Canadian support for those who abdicate or procure their citizenship as a function of convenience, why are we not extending the same courtesy to those who have contributed profoundly to Canadian culture? Who is the champion of this cause? I wonder what our government is doing when a significant former owner, a holder of high honour and international renown, is wrongfully imprisoned in another country? It's time for our government to speak on this issue and pledge support where it is deserved.

Peter Klaesbauer, Mississauga, Ont.

THE SCHEDULED arrival time, completion date in the Justice section is challenging, even to the most objective of readers. What is immediately clear to everyone is that if you're not an attorney or a court officer and you don't check a document's integrity and the evidence produced, you are obstructing justice. There is no question Conrad Black did just that. So, really, appellate arguments are never (in Canada or in the U.S.) an opportunity to retry cases. They are only for motions on appeal that are ripe for appellate review, not just your disappointment at the result.

Steve Glavin, Stratford, Ont.

CONRAD BLACK is in jail today not because of any true criminal offence, but because

he has never tempered his ego with an ounce of humility. When did America (and Canada for that matter) develop such taste for hubris, success and justified pride? It's a shame. Both for Lord Black and our society.

Miriam Roman, Regina

AXE MEN RULE!

KATHRYN BREWSTER brought her article about the death of police solo ("It's official: the guitar solo is dead," *Music*, July 28) Guitar solos are nowhere to be found in Top 40 music, but if your only source of music is Top 40, you are severely depriving yourself of some fantastic music. Bands like Bruce



ALL HAIL the Canadian bawlers, says a reader

Thunes, Operah and Three Outfit believeable maniacs with audacious magnetism, yet they are repeatedly converted for self-indulgent sales and fails, in it's a crime to usually put time and effort into their craft. Why did skilled performers like John Penrudd and Paul Gilbert apologize for (page 9) actually knowing how to play their guitars? I doubt this attitude prevails among fans of classical music, ballet, or any sports; would you expect anyone to perform beneath their abilities?

Dave Ferreira, Whistler, Ont.

HEAVY METAL, whether it's death, thrash or speed, has every type of guitar solo possible. Whether to complement the cacophony of solos or give a totally chaotic and dark feel, the metalheads always survive in the world of heavy metal music.

Donald Paliotto, Orleans, Ont.

PRIDE FOR AN IMAM

WEIRD I just finished reading Marland's finer view with Syed Suleimani, the Imam who fled a human rights complaint against Dan Lewis for publishing the controversial Dan

ish caravans (Interview, July 26). The turn-around in his opinion on human rights complaints after complaints were filed against him gave me a glimmer of hope about the whole human rights compensation fiasco. If people would seriously take the time to think reasonably about issues and discuss them before giving in egregiously offended, we wouldn't be in the mess we are today. As a regular Canadian, I really don't understand what all the fuss is about. Open and honest dialogue about contentious issues is always the better alternative. The minute governments—or God forbid, lawyers—get involved, we become polarized into opposing camps. Kudos to Suleimani for having the courage to admit he was wrong.

Gerry Maschuk, Guelph, Ont.

EATONNE BREWSTER is right in her article about the death of police solo ("It's official: the guitar solo is dead," *Music*, July 28). Guitar solos are nowhere to be found in Top 40 music, but if your only source of music is Top 40, you are severely depriving yourself of some fantastic music. Bands like Bruce

Lee, Lynyrd Skynyrd, etc.

I'M FINDING MYSELF thinking that I might actually be able to relate to Calgary man Tim Soltan when he says human rights commissioners are not fit for purpose about freedom of speech. Half-joking, or whatever the equivalent Muslim word is. Maybe he could share some notes with the crew that gave year Mark Steyn a few undeserved new wrinkles.

Tim Kent, Vancouver

BEAVERS ON THE MARCH

NATIONAL PRESS mailed inside me and my hand went over my heart when I read Michael Gray's story about Canadian beavers changing their way across Russia ("Trout, what's that?," *Nature*, July 28). Our imperious little rodents are making a legacy world of us parting them on our march. I am sure it is not funny for the Russians, Russians and Americans, but it does show our beavers are the best. All hail the mighty Canadian beaver and its conquering of the world!

Glen Davis, Cochrane, Alta.

THANKS FOR the article on the pesky Canadian beaver threatening Moscow. Do you think they've gone up? All over the world the Canucks meet in clandestine corners plotting how we can take over the world using beavers. Place one: Moscow and Amsterdam. Place two: Washington, London and Madrid. After that, the nosebleeding. Please think, the molehounds always survive in the world of heavy metal music.

David Paliotto, Orleans, Ont.

WEIRDO I TALK ABOUT WHEN I TALK ABOUT BURNING By Marlene Johnson

9 DEFECT INTO CHAOS By Ahmed Rizvi

10 WHAT HAPPENED By Scott McCallum

BARENAKED SUPPORT

THANK YOU to Nicholas Kohler and Cuffy Gall for the well-balanced article on singer

Steven Page (Barrett on drug charges ["Barenaked Music"], *Profile*, Aug. 4). I have been a Barenaked Ladies fan for many years. I thank that in a society we are separating too much from our entertainers. We are so quick to point out their failings and act shocked at their baselessness. I was really happy that your article, instead of bashing Page, presented the facts along with observations from rational people including his lifelong friend. Instead of judging others, it's time for us all to look inward and find some compassion, empathy and forgiveness.

Kelly Gladman, Guelph, Ont.

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LAST WEEKENDS 94 LISTS



'Mamma Mia!' is sleazy? Thank goodness all this moral turpitude was happening in Greece.'

I WAS QUITE SHOCKED to see the Steven Pug scandal on your cover this week. What else, not good news you could have run instead? Me, I am a long-time Banned Ladies fan and I was shocked about the news, but in my opinion, it's not headline news. Everyone sighs.

Sara Anne Gabrille, Oshkosh

I SHOULD NOT have been surprised when I returned *Machete* from my post office box and found the hand-censor's permit of a very erratic schadenfreude plot over Steven Pug's misadventure. Talk about a dog-bites-man story—a rock star found with illicit drugs. Pugs should be given a pass for maintaining his dignity for as long as he has while living in the fibboon of pop musicians that our society demands of creative souls. We should celebrate his creativity and recognize that, to borrow a trite cliché, there but for the grace of God go I. Keep following your muse, Steven!

Jan Raczynski, Clinton, Ont.

SEX REGISTRY FLAWS

MICHAEL PRESCOLANINI'S ARTICLE on the national sex offender registry (NSOR) in right—it is a seriously flawed and ineffective law enforcement tool ("Taking the handcuffs off to keep track of sex offenders," National, July 12) is March's, after reading Prescolani's July 14 cover story on this issue, our offer written to Parliamentary Secretary Bradford Day to express our concerns about the effectiveness of the NSOR. One of the issues we raised was the failure of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to alert the RCMP when registered sex offenders were released from prison. Day replied and assured us that the government is taking appropriate steps to improve the NSOR and informed us that there is now an administrative agreement between the CSC and the RCMP to share information on releases of sex offenders. While this is a step forward, many needs to be done to map dangerous convicted criminals too easily able to avoid registering on the NSOR. Our office will continue to pursue this matter until the NSOR is functioning efficiently, allowing authorities to properly keep track of dangerous convicted criminals and reduce further incidents.

Steve Sankaran, Federal Opposition for Victims of Crime, Ottawa

MAMMA MIA! AND MORALS

TOOTHSOME READING

AS THE MOVIE *Mamma Mia!* is an undeniably playful stick on family values ("My marmalade slept around. Ha ha ha!" Pugs, July 26) The musical's libidinous flavor and satisfy a "dairy plot" of "parental abandonment and promiscuity" is "sholestone" family entertainment? May I further fan the flames of moral snobbery? The movie's dodging some marriage is even more reprehensible than working, struggling, single mothering just as good, or even better; right to give a daughter away than any dad, private or remote. Thank goodness all this moral turpitude was happening in Greece.

Eva Bodnar, Toronto

IT IS INTRIGUING that Jaine J. Whistler's article adapts the roisterous stance in the review of *Mamma Mia!* at a time when Henry Morgentaler and abortion are controversial. As the theme of having a child out of wedlock, as opposed to aborting, that offend, or the numerous sexual partners angle, is Meryl Streep's character stronger too heavy about the situation when she should come to a bad or at least to a mediocre end? Matriarch male sexual promiscuity nor violence has ever been a problem in classics, comedies or musicals, and while this latest farce may not live up to me, it finds the dead towardly hypocritical, retrograde and boring.

Dawn Wrench Under, St. Albert, Alta.



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7 DAYS



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF JASON BAY

The all-star slugger from Tint, Fla., wakes up Thursday morning a member of the lowly Pittsburgh Pirates. By apididk he wins the new left fielder for the defending champion Boston Red Sox, who orchestrated a major three-way trade that spelled the end of Moises Alou's rocky reign in Beantown. Bay, 29, did not disappoint the Fenway faithful. In his Friday night debut, he aced the winning run, and on Saturday he smacked his first home run over the famous Green Monster.

Good news

Barack-track

By Sunday, the price of oil had fallen to \$109 per barrel—too high to bring much relief—but even still a troubling measure of the ailing U.S. economy. So Barack Obama was right this week to refer his opposition to domestic offshore drilling, along with the idea of tapping into the American oil reserves to ease pressure at the pump. Starting fall costs have played a key role in dragging the U.S. economy toward recession, and while Obama will wear the white label far his resolve, he's already bowing to hard reality. Electric cars are fine in theory, but without jobs to pay for them—and with the trade-in values of \$17,000 dialing low by the day—we all need some time to adjust. A short-term solution is justified, and wait.

Small world after all

Facebook friends, brace yourselves. According to a new study, Microsoft-backed study of instant messaging (IM) net users, researchers have proven that all human beings are indeed only six degrees of separation—6.6 degrees to be precise—from Hollywood hunk Kevin Bacon. In fact, no one is more than 6.6 links away from any other in a chain of personal contacts. Here is proof that as technology expands its reach, the world gets smaller. Unfortunately for Kevin Bacon, it gets crazier, too.

Money Pitt (R. Jolie)

Speaking of creepy films, you're bound to see a few in front of the newsstands this week, getting their fill of the never-before-seen Bradfords ovum on the latest issue of *People*. The magazine paid millions of dollars for the exclusive shot, and the proud parents have promised to donate

every penny to charity. Good for them. Let's hope some of that cash goes toward helping those who suffer from obesity's own "fat" syndrome (yes, it's a real medical disorder).

Mind over marriage

In the previous issue of *Maclean's*, Harvard University professor Mark O'Connell explained why marriage, though difficult at times, is overall the shelter—both emotionally and economically—Married couples, he said, are

Bad news

A brutal idea

The one idea that shattered the lives of 16 police officers in northwest China may do little to disrupt the Beijing Olympics, but it has placed a permanent stain on the cause of Muslim dissidents in Xinjiang province. With the eyes of the world on China, the austal assas have now lent credence to Beijing's dubious claims of terrorism in the region, which the government has used in the past to justify severe crackdowns on the rights of Muslim Uyghur

FACE OF THE WEEK



GILBERTO CARVALHO: Under investigation for bribery, Brazil's Prime Minister Dilma Rousseff announces his resignation, effective next month

poorest face for society. If the crackers are, as officials claim, more expensive, they are about to know what inflation around the world figure out last year can be powerful, driving people away from your worthy cause even as it endangers their existence.

If the crackers are, as officials claim, more expensive, they are about to know what inflation around the world figure out last year can be powerful, driving people away from your worthy cause even as it endangers their existence.

Cartoons for Chuck
So much for R-rated. According to sources in New Hampshire, more than 3 million American children between the ages of 10 and 14 watch the typical violent, cartoonish movie. Even more troubling, the study found that the more violent tame—like the

MITCH RAPHAEL ON McCAIN'S INVITE TO MAY AND THE MP WHO OUTWRITES DANIELLE STEEL

THE MP WHO WRITES BOOKS YOU'LL NEVER GET TO READ

London, Ont., Liberal MP Glen Pearson has his own underground literary industry, with such a prolific output he could give Danielle Steel a run for her money. For his seven children, he has written numerous kids' books, including *The Path Between Two Brothers*, which is about a girl who lost her mom to a land mine. It's based on the experience of his daughter, Abek Bay, one of three siblings he adopted from Bader Adult services but who now have names such as the evergreen and China. But don't look for Pearson's books in bookstores. Very limited editions are circulated among family and friends. He gets the books bound but has never tried to get any of them published. "I don't even worry about that," says the MP. "I don't think I am that good a writer." Writing books, he told *Capital Diary*, "is a great way to keep learning." He recently met a child advocacy advocate who owned a men fiction books he wrote in 1987 on social justice. Pearson's wife had given it to her when they were both working at a London food bank. In 1992, Jean Chretien used one of his books about citizenship as an example of how politics needs more public participation. One of his latest books is about ergonomics. Liberal deputy leader Michael Ignatieff is supposed to be writing the introduction. "He saw it on my desk one day. He was looking at it when I went to take a phone call."

JOHN McCAIN HAS A FEELING HE'D BE A VERY INTERESTING COMPANION

Former Green leader Jim Harris held a party fundraiser on his new Toronto home, where politi-



ELIZABETH MAY in her second-term swirl, with party friend Jim Sinclair (left) and former Prime Minister Paul Martin (right); (below) Glen Pearson (center); (left) Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff; and the impertinent Christine Gilkes (right).



res, this is the first time they have had their own boar: Mackay Migraine Dragon-Green hip-slam, Aug. 9. The festival near Dragon boat racing began in southern China 2,400 years ago as a fertility rite performed to assure bountiful crops.

THE PARTYING SWEDIE IS MOVING ON

One of Ottawa's top social networkers, Christine Gilkes, is leaving the capital. Her husband, who works for Foreign Affairs, has been assigned to Portugal. Gilkes, a Swede who arrived in Canada in 1996, has been involved in numerous gala events and is well-known for connecting people, including Sweden's ambassador to Canada, Logfinn Strand, with others on the Ottawa cultural scene. Inmarks say Gilkes's outgoing and lively nature is very "au-Swedish." But if you'll excuse me, they are not Swedish in Sweden it is a catastrophe." Through the anniversary year, she added that Gilkes's "entrepreneurial and efficiency qualities are very Swedish." Gilkes's debut fundraiser in Ottawa was called "I'll be home for Christmas," she brought strict locks to the Fairmont Chateau Laurier to talk about their experiences. She plans to come back to Ottawa for one event this severely overbooked, the Ottawa Humanist Society's Fall Ball, when Sonny & Cherries join in. Harper "She's hands-on too," notes Gilkes of the Prime Minister's wife. "She walks from table to table, which is more of the North American thing to do. In Europe, people would do that walking about."

PETER MACRAE AND ELIZABETH MAY TAKE PART IN NOVA SCOTIA FERTILITY RITES

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Green Leader Elizabeth May are square off in Nova Scotia at the Pictou County Dragon Boat Festival. While both have paddled in previous dragon boat races, MacKay invited his no-

The Tories' dilemma: big fight, no target



PAUL WELLIS

Quebec City gaga-gaga and fitter this year as it celebra its 400th anniversary, so Stephen Harper's national Conservative caucus held their summer retreat across the St. Lawrence River in Lévis. Which doesn't look that hot, but not celebrating anything.

The caucuses retreat is looking concrete-cut because come in the middle of an open field, a considerable distance from everything. The Prime Minister loves this sort of thing, one of his ministers tells me, because when MPs and senators snack together in the middle of nowhere they have to be bold. They were only able to get him to settle on Lévis by convincing him that the nation's ice flies and that the flies were already bad.

Opposition ministers and senators took note: look at this caucuses'Toronto of Solitude and spent the week basking it in Quebec City at every opportunity for decent food and sightseeing. Harper has a lot of salts but he hasn't yet managed to repeat human nature that made their giddy bunker and eat,

the Conservatives were remarkably chirpy. The Prime Minister has a new communications director. Instead of breaking out all over, Cabinet ministers were practically lining up at the pool macrophone for press conferences. People from the Prime Minister's Office stood ready to brief reporters on the action and the thinking. "Clearly this caucus is about setting an agenda for the fall," one told us. "It's not an election-election census."

Stephen Dion has been making noise about a fall election. He has made noise about an election every few months since he became the Liberal leader and so far, every time, he has been quick to follow up the election noise with silence, which is the norm on election cycles when it's not happening. "That's now been played 12, 18 times already in the life of this Parliament," our PMO briefler said. Dion even travelled to nearby St-Augustin to

give a speech鼓ing Dion over election time, telling him it's time to "fish or cut bait." In other words, either bring the government down and force an election, or let the government keep governing. Like many of the Prime Minister's less lofty, this one is impressive if you don't inspect it too closely. Until the魁北克省 fisheries, a good fisherman is well-advised to cut his line in Dion—an angler, an angler—not cutting bait right now, in anticipation of the night fishing incursion?

The Conservatives are spending much attention to such details. Dion's "Green Shift" proposal, which would impose a tax on carbon consumption while creating income taxes, is in the Conservative lexicon, a "tax on every-

sold Dion didn't want to release his Green Shift in the second week of June. He wanted to introduce it two months earlier. But he is a fighter with a long history of compulsively mauling his drafts, until a boss tells him to enough up. Presumably, he's the boss now. The魁北克省 days kept ... shaking.

Nine years ago Dion introduced the Climate Act outlining the rules of Quebec's system. "One reason I asked Dion to introduce the bill in December was that that's the month we have both snow and exams in Quebec," Jean Charest writes in his autobiography. "For the milieus didn't like to take to the streets in blizzard, and the assembly recesses after the end of the school year or before the holidays." There is one measure of the distance between

How can you take on Stéphane Dion's Green Shift plan when nobody seems to care?

thing" that will destroy the economy. The Conservatives are having running arguments of this, consensus and the like. Informed people across the country, to deliver that message. They blamed Pauline Marois and the Parti Québécois for press conferences. People from the Prime Minister's Office stood ready to brief reporters on the action and the thinking. "Clearly this caucus is about setting an agenda for the fall," one told us. "It's not an election-election census."

Stephen Dion has been making noise about a fall election. He has made noise about an election every few months since he became the Liberal leader and so far, every time, he has been quick to follow up the election noise with silence, which is the norm on election cycles when it's not happening. "That's now been played 12, 18 times already in the life of this Parliament," our PMO briefler said. Dion even travelled to nearby St-Augustin to

strategy and in short: the winter spotlight that press and face, under Chretien's guidance, in 1999 has become something quickly that makes it hard to get anyone interested in 2008.

So the Conservatives are trying to paint Dion's most important policy as a plague, but quickly they think looks more like a damp cold, incomprehensible to voters, launched at precisely the wrong time, just to be aware when an election does come, especially if Dion plays to type and finds himself in a seat on October 2 to wait May for the final showdown. It's like a shark where the other guy finally bites his tail, only it's a rubber chicken. And the shark goes back at him, so even if he manages to bite first, it's not clear what'll get hurt, except the guy pulling the shark's tail. The Conservatives know they're supposed to worry. They're just not sure what about. It

ON THE WEB: For more on Paul Wellis visit the blog at www.macleans.ca/political-wellis.

Twelve warrants, and not a prosecution in the lot



ANDREW POTTER

Since its establishment 10 years ago, few countries have supported the International Criminal Court as enthusiastically as Canada. And even in the enforcement was being sidelined into existence, few Canadians were as doting as our foreign affairs minister at the time, Lloyd Axworthy. In June 1998, at a conference leading up to the signing of the Rome Statute that established the ICC, Axworthy gave a passionate speech as defense of the principles that motivated the court's creation:

"An independent and effective International Criminal Court will help to deter some of the most serious violations of international humanitarian law," he said. "By isolating andigmatizing those who commit war crimes or genocides, and monitoring them from the international community, it will help to end cycles of impunity and retribution."

In short, the ICC would put a stop to the custom of isolating a brutal dictator into retirement by offering him a Swiss bank account full of cash and a secure mansion on the French Riviera. From now on, those accused of crimes against humanity would stand trial in accordance with principles of universal justice, to help achieve a more lasting peace among the people they sacrificed and in the lands in which they laid waste.

A decade later it launched, the ICC's tenure of success is not long. Despite having issued 12 arrest warrants—all in Africa, with four suspect placed under arrest, in the course of a single prosecution, critics have strenuously argued that everything from general incompetence to proof that Western-style justice can't be applied to Africa, but there is actually a deeper problem, which cuts to the heart of Axworthy's defense of the court's mission. Far from upholding peace and reconciliation, more often than not the ICC seems to be standing in the way.



In Uganda the International Criminal Court is actually serving as an obstacle to peace

But his specialty involves walking into a village, ordering children to man and march their own parents, then forcing them to serve as soldiers in the LRA.

Three years ago the ICC issued arrest warrants against Kony and his top commanders, but they failed to summarize without a guarantee of immunity from prosecution. Kony instantly responded to a peace agreement back in April, but he refuses to come out of the jungle and sign it until the ICC drops the warrants.

That's not out of the question. Back in the spring, members of the international NGO community had fought a hard Canadian Foreign Affairs memo indicated that our government was at least "open" to the idea of the UN Security Council asking the ICC to suspend the charges against Kony. This was seen as a complete reversal of the way

one of its biggest backers, and it confirmed some of the worst suspicions about Stephen Harper: not only is he just as allergic as the Americans to multilateralism, but he also appears willing to sacrifice Canada's international reputation in order to back up to George W. Bush.

The thing is, too straightforward. To begin with, people inside Foreign Affairs insist that Canada remains solidly behind the ICC, even if political enthusiasm seems to have waned. Given that it's probably impossible for anyone to be more keen on the court than Axworthy, any change of minister, let alone government, would be seen as a ratcheting down of the enthusiasm—a fact noted even under Paul Martin's government.

But more to the point, just because something pleases the American doesn't necessarily mean it's wrong. Yes, American conservatives are hostile to the court, but so are the moral relativists on the left, who seem an especially ardent urge to impose "Western" forms of justice on African societies.

In his speech in Italy, Lloyd Axworthy drew an ultimate connection between the demands for peace and the demands of justice: "Without justice," said Axworthy, "there is no reconciliation, and without reconciliation, no peace."

It is becoming increasingly clear that Axworthy had it wrong, and what many of the ICC's more blindered supporters have trouble conceding is that there is a genuine moral dilemma here: "peace" versus "justice" is just a variation on the old dispute between the good and the right. These can and frequently do come into conflict, and when they do, how should we rank them?

Which should have priority? The answer to that question is a matter of politics, not morality or law. The International Criminal Court is first and foremost a political institution, and acknowledging that fact would be a first step to making it a more effective international player.

The decision to lay charges is shot through with political calculation—as our experts Vladimíra Pešinová or Ha Jinbo to be arrested any time soon, were the political fallout would be enormous. But there's a very real risk that by changing direction in African countries of no consequence, too—the ongoing terror and strife for the people most affected—and maybe the court and its supporters should start to give some consideration to that. ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Potter visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter

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'Post-1988, winning became a dirty word. There was mediocrity. It was okay just to participate. We should strive to be the best.'

OUTSPOKEN OLYMPIAN ALEX BAUMANN TALKS TO KEN MACQUEEN ABOUT CANADA'S CHANCES IN BEIJING, AND THE HARD ROAD TO EXCELLENCE

Good enough was never good enough for Alex Baumann. His athletic career has been two-folded as he's won two gold medals in the 200 and 400-metre individual medley at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. His competitive career also earned him esteem after he retired from competition and demanded accountability from Canada's funding across program. He served in Australia in 1991, where he became a key part of its success in the sport machine. The Canadian Olympic Committee hired him back in 2007 to lead its new Road to Excellence program. Australia was 97 medalists and finished first in the 2004 Athens Summer Games. Canada was a meagre, finishing 16th. The COC's first priority is a top 16 finish in Beijing. The road has to start somewhere.

Q Is it reasonable to expect that the programs you're helping into place and that are finalizing for the Road to Excellence will impact Canada's performance in Beijing?

A Really the new funding from the federal budget that was announced this year hasn't really flowed yet to the sports, or to the Canadian sports centre. There have been funds that were announced from Sport Canada in addition to what the ministers do, but that is a disastrous money. We've got to prioritize resources to those sports where we feel there is the greatest chance for medal potential, but it's too early for Beijing. Our goal is certainly [London] 2012.

Q Targeting certain sports as opposed to

isong the money to everyone caused ripple. What has changed in the amateur Olympic athletes world?

A Based on the winter athletics program, over the past few years, we have a fairly good model that shows if you prioritize sports that have the greatest medal chance you are more likely to get the results. Certainly know that in Australia when we targeted and prioritized quite extensively it's a performance-based system. Ultimately high performance isn't realistic now. Some hard decisions had to be made.

Q Jenise Zelkha, the heptathlete, qualified for Beijing 2008. Given her by a hair. She had been fighting injuries all that year and she told us she wished she would have had the support back then when she was a developing athlete.

A That's right. My focus is really on four things. The technical leadership is probably the most important thing, ensuring we have the best coaches to run the programs. Training in competition is critical as well; providing athletes and coaches all the opportunities there are to increase the whole issue of injury management and prevention. Ensuring quality support services would be the third aspect. Obviously we're pushing our athletes hard and fast and we need to ensure that we have injury management and injury prevention a strategy, and ensure support services like sports scientists and physiology, psychology and biomechanics are there as well. That's what the leading nations are doing. The fourth thing is areas of focus

needs to be increasing the organizational capacity of national sporting organizations.

Q Explain what you mean by that.

A It's not just giving a sport \$100,000 to run a program and not having the quality people to implement the program.

Q What sports are targeted for extra funding for Beijing?

A There are quite a few. The core Olympic sports are rowing, canoeing and driving. Category two sports are athletics, women's soccer and men's soccer. Swimming is a category three sport; women's wrestling is a new.

Q For the first time in Beijing, Canadian medalists will be paid for their performance (\$10,000 for gold, \$5,000 for silver, \$1,000 for bronze) is this an effective incentive?

A I'm honest. I'm not sure that's a huge incentive. I just think that's something we have to do. It's not a huge amount, \$10,000 for gold elsewhere. But it does carry some weight in terms of rewarding the athletes for all the hard work. We've got to make sure we balance that out by making sure we've got the relevant programs and coaches in place.

Q There has been a massive women's swimming imbalance. I doubt the average Olympic TV viewer realises that when they wonder why some seem dominant while others aren't (think Cindy Klassen).

Q There has been a huge imbalance. The main reason is that Canada got the 2010 Winter Games and came up with a fairly innovative way to fund programs and ath-

letes prior to the Games. VANOC [the Vancouver Organizing Committee] provides 50 per cent and the government provides 50 per cent. So it's \$1 million per year over five years. I think that's fantastic, but that's quite novel. Obviously we want to do well at those Olympics. The bar they're set is pretty high—so come No. 1 in some of that medal count. But I do believe we have to work hard. There has been a considerable imbalance and hence the whole lobby effort for Row to Excellence for amateur sports.

Q Are you satisfied with what the federal budget provided this year?

A We didn't get everything we asked for but I do believe we'll make an incremental \$10 million dollars additional this year, \$10 million less next year, then \$10 million ongoing.

Q When you look at needs for sporting excellence, what concern comes to mind?

A I still think Australia has a pretty good model though. I do think they'll probably dip a little bit in the ranking table this time around. They have a fairly strong and solidified model with institutes and send more a central manager in Canberra and state managers. That's taken a long time to develop. I understand after the 1996 Atlanta Games, when Australia did extremely poorly with this model. They started putting together a plan to have these institutes, but the results probably didn't come in until about that until 1996. It takes some time. One of the factors of the Australian model isn't really put a lot more skill than coaches in the system. I think that's critical. I think the U.S. has started to get its act organized. It isn't in coordination in Australia but, particularly with the Olympics in 2001, they hit a fence. You can't really look at the Chinese model.

Q Why not?

Q They just have so many kids. You can have an extremely high attrition rate.

Q And they do.

A That's right. We can't compare. Certainly Australia would be comparable to Canada with the economy of size and the lack of population. Germany does a good job and also has a training centre or institute type of model. I saw they Tel Aviv. Plus the Netherlands. But you can't take one model and transplant it into another country. We need to come up with our own model.

Q Does countries—Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.—treating some of their athletes with elite military units, or are they doing an extraordinary for athletes? They do have a lot of the same skills.

Q Yeah, and the discipline as well.

Q Are we doing anything like that?

Q Not at this point. One of the things that

we need to talk about in the future, because we have such a small talent pool, is ensuring that we have a proper name identification and development program to identify those athletes that would be good for, for example, cycling or rowing and trying to foster them. It's easier for physiological sports like cycling and rowing. You can do a number of tests and you can identify whether the athlete has the engine or not. Somehow need to tap into the schools now. And the whole idea of talent transfer. You can easily take an athlete from gymnastics and put them into diving with the right coaching and at the right age. For me the priority is coaching, getting that started and taking a look at going deeper in the sports. Talent identification and development would be part of that.

Q Are you satisfied with what the federal budget provided this year?

A We didn't get everything we asked for but I do believe we'll make an incremental \$10 million dollars additional this year, \$10 million less next year, then \$10 million ongoing.

Q This is exactly what the Chinese have done. They've worked, by my count, 50 to 60 top-level training centers for their Games.

A Yes, I think the role of the coach has changed in the last 15 to 20 years where it's not just technical and tactical, particularly for head coaches. It's providing the necessary leadership to manage and drive a really disciplinary team of physiotherapists and sport science. That's not easy. We have to ensure our coaches get the kind of professional development they need.

Q There are reports that some jumping coaches in China just sit down and write exercises and are under crippling pressure to score.

A I think the Chinese, I think China has only the gold medal that counts.

Q A former Russian rowing coach, now working for China, and he was sold and paid model a week ago after.

A Bloody! Maybe that's going to be an advantage for other countries. It has been known to happen. But where there is considerable pressure the Chinese won't perform. But I wouldn't count on that.

Q Cindy Priceen Allinger, senior vice-president of sport for VANOC, says when they were designing the winter Olympics program, she was shocked to find that some of Canada's best athletes harboured debilitating doubts that they were truly world class.

A The confidence issue.

Q Exactly. Are Canadians unique in our doubts?

A I don't think so. But we do need an attitude adjustment. Certainly on the winter side we've seen where norms break norms. When you get up to that start gate or whatever, you really don't have any doubts. That's because we live so close to the [Arctic] and U.S. I don't know. But you take a look at all the top athletes that have come from Canada, they have tremendous confidence in their abilities. No, strength, but confidence they can compete with the best in the

world. I know when I competed prior to '96, I went around the world to make sure that I raced the best countries. If you do well in those competitions, that gives you tremendous confidence.

Q Do you pay a price with the Canadian sporting establishment years ago for saying some of these things, that we can't, and shouldn't, accept mediocrity?

A Oh yeah. I just believe that there has to be accountability for performance. This is when I got criticized. But if we haven't done well, we need to critically analyze why we haven't done well—and change. Not to say it won't be bad and we should be satisfied with that. I mean I have been living in Australia for 15 years and they get angry if they don't do well. 'We have some of the best, in today's world. We are strong to produce a performance



'It's not a huge amount, \$20,000 for gold. But it carries some weight in terms of rewarding athletes.'

based system. This is one of the reasons I came back. I do believe there is a renewed focus on excellence. As we all know, post-1996 [and the Eric Jackson Olympic doping scandal in Sydney], winning became a dirty word. That was disastrous. It was just easy to participate, and I certainly don't believe that's what should transpire to be the basis of the world. It doesn't mean we'll still costs but I don't think sport is any different than an arm or a leg or arms—they should be rewarded to be the best in the world. ■



HANOVER POLICE make an arrest; crime is down for the middle class, but for marginalized society the streets are mean

LESS CRIME, MORE FEAR

If most crime rates are falling, why are serious assaults on the rise in Canada?

BY JOHN GATSON • Crime can be a hard subject to think clearly about, especially in the aftermath of a particularly disturbing murder. Politics rarely helps in bringing real issues into focus. Asked by reporters our work about the horrific death of Tim McLean, the 23-year-old Wanupagan man who was stabbed and then beaten to death in other parts of a town travelling a lonely stretch of Maranash highway, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day took the opportunity to call for the case to be prosecuted "as aggressively as possible"—as if there was some reason to imagine the authorities might go easy on the offence. This is sort of home-page coverage, with a bit of political spin thrown in, that many criminologists who have gone over crime data to worry about the gap between public perceptions and facts. The most recent Statistics Canada report on crime, released on July 17, showed that the national rate fell in 2007 to its lowest level in three decades. And the

decline is every headlined. Most offences—from break-ins to homicides—are down. Most places—and indeed every province but Newfoundland, and all of the nine biggest Canadian cities—reported lower crime rates last year than the year before.

But the numbers haven't done anything to quiet those inclined to tell a more alarmist story. Victoria's rightists, someapol, and, especially, the Tory government, all put more emphasis on popular images than they do data. "I don't think there's any question there are positive indicators out there," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said in an interview when asked about the reassuring statistics. "But concern about crime in general is something I get everywhere that I go. I don't think this is illusory. I don't think it's imaginative. There are people seriously parts of this country that are feeling less safe."

Experts on crime trends aren't sure how to explain the evident anomaly in a less crime-filled society. Some criminologists speculate that there might be something misleading in those figures. They commonly stand out. After all, between 1998 and 2007, the rate of homicide fell 5.5 per cent, and the rate of sexual assault dropped 24 per cent. Even the midrange sort of assault, which used to be called "assault overall" and is now known as "level one assault"—stabbing, say, punching, slapping, or shoving somebody else—dropped by nearly 11 per cent over the 10-year period.

The disconnect between statistics showing less crime, and public fear that society is growing more violent, might seem impossible to reconcile. But there is a way to look at the figures that area more truth in both perspectives. One place to start is in a new law known as "level one assault"—stabbing, say, punching, slapping, or shoving somebody else—dropped by nearly 11 per cent over the 10-year period.



MIDDLE-CLASS FEARS ABOUT CRIME ARE AT ODDS WITH STATISTICAL REALITY



STABBING VICTIM MELVIN KAP (LEFT); THE ASSAULT (RIGHT); POLICE SAFETY MEMBER DAY

But when it comes to an assault involving, brutally beating, or stabbing a victim with whatever weapon come to hand, Statistics Canada's findings indicate such attacks are steadily up. Police aren't surprised. Inspector Mike Porteous, head of the Vancouver Police Department's major crime unit, says the three conditions he long experience in some rough neighbourhoods. He says violent offenders, rather than more disorderly brawlers, have grown much more common over 10 or 15 years. "Back in the day, if I went into a bar, and there was a dispute, it would end up with a fist fight," Porteous says. "We're increasingly see now that it ends up with a stabbing. Or an axe or very popular now, a broken bottle or glass on the floor. Or a shooting."

Several criminologists interviewed by *Maclean's* worried against normally accepting this sort of statistical analysis as less revealing than others. Some criminologists speculate that there might be something misleading in those figures. They commonly stand out. After all, between 1998 and 2007, the rate of homicide fell 5.5 per cent, and the rate of sexual assault dropped 24 per cent. Even the midrange sort of assault, which used to be called "assault overall" and is now known as "level one assault"—stabbing, say, punching, slapping, or shoving somebody else—dropped by nearly 11 per cent over the 10-year period.

The broader picture of declining crime includes the sort of offence called middle-class Canadianism, who live and work in good areas, might reasonably be more concerned about. The midrange sort of assault, for instance,

dropped nearly 40 per cent between 1998 and 2007, and car thefts fit during the same period by just under 20 per cent. Yet over the same 10 years, drug-related violence, often associated with criminal gangs, is a growing problem in the worst areas of some cities.

Revd sex victims in these troubled neighbourhoods run likely the gang members themselves, or illegal drug buyers, or others who by choice or chance find themselves at close proximity to dangerous young men. "We are, more or less, a 'Bayld town,'" Porteous says, referring to an alternative term used to describe young men who are part of that lifestyle, or if you are vulnerable to this kind of crime, you are more likely to be victimized. And it's hard to distinguish the victims from the offenders in these circumstances."

Of course violent criminals can hurt anyone. But the most recent detailed survey of crime victims by Statistics Canada, based on 2006 figures, showed that unemployed young people are the most at risk, and the dangers sharply among those who go on to frequently turn to bars or other "warming activities."

Not surprisingly, violent crime was much less likely to strike older, married individuals, especially those in their geriatric brackets. The author of a sharply divided perspective on crime in Canada—less reason to worry for the average citizen, more cause for concern for those on the margin—is not one that often makes it into well-polished debate. Low-end order politics are all about reassuring law-abiding taxpayers who tend to vote, and

cooling down hard on the drugs who might threaten them. If the reality is more complex, the political will to crack down.

It's not just the attitude statistics that suggest the punishing of two quite different trends in crime. Data from your people also suggest less crime overall, but more of the same sort. Last year, the youth crime rate dropped by two per cent, but that decline was scattered in non-violent offences. Violent crime committed by youths remained stable in fact, since the mid-1990s (the steepest year-over-year rise for youths has been seen during the last 10 years).

Such crime is bound to emerge within the next few months as another political issue. Up to now, the Conservatives have focused on adult criminals, passing new laws to impose longer mandatory sentences for various gun crimes and making it harder for sexual assault victims to get out on bail while awaiting trial. But Nicholson (and Merleau's) his current review of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, enacted five years ago by the Liberals, will result in farougher punishments that fall. "This is an issue," he said, "but it's a particular concern to Canadians."

He's almost certainly right about that. The abnormally high youth violent crime rate is closely associated with highly publicized drug-related gang activity, which might, in fact, be partly behind the rise in violent insults. But will tough on crime measures make a difference? Rosalyn Gottschalk, a criminology professor at the University of Toronto, says comparing the more Canadian and US experience suggests otherwise. Crime rates in both countries have been decreasing in raw terms since the 1990s. In the U.S., Gottschalk says, criminologists often attribute that trend to zero-tolerance policies. She approach famously promoted in New York City, and those same measures are prison for longer. "I tell them Canada is not unprotecting more people," Gottschalk says. "And we haven't implemented more tolerance policies—but yet the crime graphs for Canada are still the graphs for the U.S., and you see exactly the same thing."

Gottschalk says experts don't really have any tidy explanations for the coincidence with decline in crime, so it's hardly surprising that exception like the rate in violent assaults are even harder to explain. "Loosening a single fence," the criminologist, "is always dangerous and will inevitably be shown to be worse." She suggests that a mix of racial, economic, and demographic factors are better explaining crime rates. That's far too nuanced and measured, though, to fit neatly in a political speech. This fall's debate on youth crime will, as doctor, make it stand much simpler.

HITTING GOLD ON SKID ROW

The most notorious slum in Canada gets a millionaire makeover

BY NANCY MACDONALD • "I've got to be out by September," says Jon, pointing to the Pacific Hotel, a boarding house Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Inside, with neon-pink walls and Joe's eye two-parters the bally Soupe dinner bags drop from the ceiling. But for years, the Main Street bordello, with its seven pub, has been house. Come fall, it's unlikely Jon will be able to stay there, the city's last affordable neighbourhood. The rats of new condos like Gage, the green-and-orange blocks going up next door, with acres rapping up, have made his \$150-a-month rental rise. "I don't know where I'm going to go," says the carpenter, who's on disability, so he casts his eyes over a stretch of Main Street the Vancouver Sun recently dubbed "no destination" for "even the drug crowd." Right now, there are no vacancies here.

The unthinkable is happening: The Downtown Eastside, Canada's most notorious slum, is quietly disappearing. The "gold" signs we everywhere—most along Hastings Street, ground zero of the crackling and homeless resurgence. In the past 24 months, hundreds of lots have changed hands as developers and speculators snap up deeds to the city's so-called final frontier. Some of Vancouver's biggest players have bought in, including Halibut, the group behind the \$100-million Residences at 10th Carlton, Westbank Properties, developer of the Shangri-La, the city's tallest tower; and Masseyland Development Corp., which hopes to erect the Downtown Eastside's first high-rise. Despite fierce community opposition, Concord Pacific—the company founded by Hong Kong millionaire Li Ka-shing that made a killing redeveloping the site of Vancouver's Expo 86—is barreling ahead with a glass-and-concrete project along Hastings' southern stretch. Neighboring developer Robert Pang has seven million-dollar renovations on the go, including one run of the century Hastings Street pub the Black and Fern Bistro. Incomes,

meanwhile, keep pouring in to SoLo, a chic chateau at Blood Alley. Victoria Vu, who owns Vu's, one of the city's hottest restaurants, is used to being around the area for a new venture. "Yes, there's gold in them thar high-class alleys."

These well-worn sidewalks seen the world-famous Molly madhouse for a cabaret. But a few years ago, Bob Korn, the city's most influential culturist, started telling journalists that property values in the Downtown Eastside, depressed for decades, were set to spike. "It didn't take a genius to figure it out," he admits. Vancouver is a peninsula. Outpacing the entire continent, about 30 per cent of Vancouverites have already squatted themselves into this dense core. But the downtown was almost out of developable land. "The only thing left was the Downtown Eastside," says Korn. The market price reached a signal. And it came in 2009, with the realization of a long-running dispute over the abandoned Woodward's department store on Hastings Street.

For years, an ugly battle had raged between area activists who wanted the massive, long-term solution of better social housing, and some in the business community who thought you might as well stick a feel in the neighbor hood if that happened. Then, in 2009, the province sold off Vancouver's newly-revived city council, for a paltry \$5 million. The deal hinged on a city-wide-leaving-nearest tendering that 2014 Winter Olympics, which council had originally opposed. Jim Green, the past director of the Downtown Eastside Residents Association, then a powerful city councillor, negotiated a plan that would ultimately see the construction of a mixed-use project that combines market and non-market housing on the Woodward's site. Many of Green's old friends and allies were dismayed. "It was a classic case of Nixon in China," says Gordon Price, director of the city's prison at St. Paul's Prison. "Everyone was shocked. Robert Pang has seven million-dollar renovations on the go, including one run of the century Hastings Street pub the Black and Fern Bistro. Incomes,



Top 200 units of social housing, including Woodward's site, are under construction. Above: Robert Pang

PHOTOS: DAVID MCNEW/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

to convert into the slum that had densities well over a branch. "A lot of people are going to mix in there, and, hopefully, learn to live together," says noted intelligence agent Sean Douglas, who's finishing up a great photojournal of the Gastown area for an art show.

The project undertaken is said to be of great significance. Two years ago, Romeo, the government's minister, sold out the redevelopment strangle on the middle of the war zone—a just 12 hours. Marketed with the tag line "Be Bold or Move to Suburbia," the site took on the "forsaken atmosphere of an Alabama lunch counter," wrote the Star. For the development community, this was the one. Not only were rentals scarce, Vancouverites willing to rent houses had bid up the Woodward's pre-sale two months before demolition crews even set to work.

The spring, hundreds of low-income tenants, including some of the city's neediest residents, were evicted as landlords cashed in on

the boom. A fifth of the city's low-cost residential beds, estimated at 12,000, have been sold. About 100 people now sleep in Oppenheimer Park each night. The problem is "dramatically bigger than it ever was," says Rev. Bill Marhsell of First United Church, where 120 people sleep on the pews daily. Michael Chignac, a longtime neighbourhood advocate, says the downtown therefore finds a very different future. "One...is pretty, and the community that's there disappears and vanishes," he notes. Or take the energy that's starting to devolve by private investors—and banks as it starts to create social good, says Green. It's a battle being waged in most gentrifying neighbourhoods across North America—but in this one recognized by Vancouver's overburdened, rock-solid economy, and the history of these streets.

The downtown Eastside, says Price, is unlike any other hard-hat neighbourhood. Historians believe the term "slumdog," which originally referred to the path loggers used masked logs to the mill, may have originated including his church, by being allowed to "read mass," says the master, originally from Johannesburg, "represented people terribly common to be treated as marginalized."

The result was the most extreme concentration of urban poverty in Canada. By '80s, every business except the pawnshops and 24-hour convenience stores had left, says Rev. Bill Marhsell, who runs the Vancouver Art Gallery on Hastings. The derelict structures sit cocooned—cheap as dirt and wickedly additive—"look the neighbourhood by name," says Dean Wilson, a busker adding who has lived there for over 30 years. "Before, no one would come down here unless they had to. Then, all of a sudden, you could get a \$10, a \$5 latte." From the arts—giganticists' playgrounds—couldn't ride the tide. Shire closed up shop in '98. By then, the area looked like it was about board up, anarchic, forbidding.

When Woodward's opens in a year, the picture will be very different. But what's because of the real estate? Some are being driven out to outlying suburbs, but they won't disappear completely, as they have in gentrifying U.S. neighbourhoods like New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant. Within these 12 blocks, there remain 14,000 units of low-income housing, plus over 200 social service agencies. "They aren't going anywhere," says Price. But there does a definite shift in thinking by officials who see the failure of containing services, and the need to create a more mixed community, adds Ley. Last month, the B.C. government, which has begun reorganizing psychiatric hospitals, including Revere, cut the ribbon at a facility treating psychiatric patients with addictions in neighbouring Burnaby—outside the Downtown Eastside. A young drug-treatment facility opened in the Okanagan town of Kelowna, 800 miles to the west, where neighbourhood's edge still endures. Walking down Hastings today, you'll find people napping on the street, dozing alone in their own best bed. You might pass someone walking a pat on a rug. "This will never be another Yaletown," says Ley, referring to the high-end, high-rent neighbourhood next door. "No one wants another Yaletown," she insists. ■

AND SOLO Concord Pacific tower; **Bob Denner**, a squatter at the old Woodward's, now a condo



PHOTO: DAVID MCNEW/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES

NATIONAL AUGUST 11, 2010

DON GETTY'S BACK!

The former premier's return to the spotlight has been controversial

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER • Don Getty was an unlikely Alberta premier, and his tenure often ended far from his native province with the press. A former quarryman who helped the Edmonton Rockies win two Grey Cups, he became a tribal, unshaven political performer—the Robert Stanfield who could catch—visitors that didn't help much after an oil and gas crash caused Alberta's revenues to drop. When Getty, a Progressive Conservative, suffered the humiliations of losing his own seat to Liberal in 1989, the press mocked him roundly. "That has been a puzzle for me," he told *Maclean's*. In fact, though that night, he can later be seen slaving away at a first-fit of paper. "Now, now," he would say to a reporter whose mike swings too close to his nose, the adoration he earned with all the coverage that followed a schoolteacher.

No surprise, then, that Getty, now 74 and back in the spotlight, has felt like an out-of-synch visitor from the past or some otherworldly Alberta. But that may be down to the circumstances of his return. Among other things, Getty left Capital Resources Canada, a small oil and gas services outfit headquartered in the U.S. whose stock trades for pennies—"Our business is capital intensive and we have no history of profit" is the bold self-assessment in its annual report. And with the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission in June last spring, following the new rules for carbon capture and storage—a technology that hasn't off-shore industrial greenhouse gases and injects them underground—the tiny plant exploded plans to move as much as 125 million tonnes of CO₂ to oil-sands owners like Petro-Canada, Alcan, and Suncor. "That was the best misfortune in the world," Getty told Maclean's. "The best in the world for holding things you wanted to move there, like carbon dioxide."

Locals complain the company has never clearly explained the project, and the tie to an event in 1966, when a natural deposit of CO₂ bubbled up from beneath a lake to suffocate 1,700 villagers (experts dismiss the comparison but say there are better places to store CO₂ than in oil-sands). A public meeting hosted by Capital Resources a long ago was "basically

a going show," says county councillor Patrice Gendron, with company representatives who "couldn't answer questions and had no technical background." But Getty says Capital Resources has since smoothed things over with the townsfolk. "They're looking forward to a economic activity," he says.

Getty's troubles-dependent mouthfuls. Primary fed by oil sands, in accordance to a deal he penned in the U.S. calling Alberta's lands crude "dirty," said his government would put

"IT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW CLOSE HE IS TO THE LEADERSHIP"



BAD OPTICS? An email of a small company he wants to hold for Tory government money

up to \$2 billion for new carbon capture and storage projects. When Getty proposed investing in competing for some of those dollars, newspaper editorialists saw the move as unambiguously "Carbon capture" plus reeks of dirty money. (Former premier Getty attempted to grab subsidies,) ran the headline. *The Journal*, noted Getty was not around, "gave the Journal hell" in a call to editor. ("I've been premier for 27 years," says "I'm not liked") walked out of the office and into the brush." As mentioned in the paper later called the headline "totally unrelated" to

MUSICAL RIDE: MOUNTAINS PURSUED RITA MACNEIL

"It was a time of measurement women fighting for specific causes that meant a lot to us. As far as my part, I needed a lot of things I didn't know how to work like if I went to the beach—Cape Breton singer Rita MacNeil upon learning that in the 1970s the RCMP had her under surveillance for attending feminist meetings about daycare and pay equity. Information on the surveillance was unconfirmed by Capital Resources a long ago was "basically



PHOTO: SCOTTISH PRESS ASSOCIATION/CONTRAST

Tired of high gas prices? So are police.

BY SACHEL MENGELSON • How are you dealing with the high price of gas? Since you are driving more, are you cutting down on luxuries—but more and more Ontarians seem to be deciding to pull it.

The summer kicked off with an incident in southwestern Ontario in May, when an authoritarian 56-year-old who had allegedly rocked up a \$1,000 worth of fuel on his employer's gas card in three months without permission. Then, in July, a veteran Ontario Provincial Police officer was



CROOKS ARE EVEN STEALING LICENSE PLATES BEFORE THEY PUMP AND RUN

pended for allegedly stealing gas from his detachment's fire truck. As police cars go in York, Ont., where gas thefts are up more than 40 per cent over last year, were still on the hook for two suspects they interrupted filling up a mobile fuel truck with diesel from tanks at a commercial yard.

Even thieves who siphon the more and flammable gas "f-f-lads" are making it harder for police to catch them. Before offenders pull up to the pump, they're removing their license plates, removing them, or even replacing them with make-believe ones. In Calgary, where gas thefts are up 30 per cent over the same period in 2007, police spokesperson Kevin French will use the ultimate plan that often don't know it has occurred until "we give them a phone call." And by that time, the thieves are usually long gone.

How much cash costs to lege at bay? Many stations are installing battery-operated cameras and keeping a closer eye on the pumps, but there's only one way to stop that outright, and that's to require customers to pay before filling up. So far, only 13 C-hauling gas-pump operators (provinces wide), but other provinces may follow. Good thing. Prepaying in a tank, but coupling up \$60 for a tank of gas while watching someone else fill up with it for free? That's unbelievable. ■

The French sign debate hits Ontario

BY MARTIN PATRICKSON • After years of relative quiet, the French language rights debate has suddenly burst up again. But not in Quebec—this time it's an issue Ontario

The epicenter of the erosion is Russell Township, a sleepy community that roughly 90 per cent French-speaking, located south of Ottawa. It may have had a smallish population belonging to all for all new businesses, a move that quickly attracted the likes of Howard Gallegos, a former radio host who's best known as the confrontationist host of Quebec's English rights movement in the 1990s. Gallegos, who now lives in neighbouring Alexandria, Ont., has vowed to fight the laws in court, and called for a boycott of local French businesses. He recently renamed the service of Birley Tyle, a lawyer and the bushwhack former president of Anglo-right group Alliance Quebec.

The very presence of Gallegos and Tyle, two veterans of Quebec's caustic language debate, has drawn attention to the fact the eastern Ontario actually distinguishes French language rights movement of its own, despite the 500,000 francophones living within its borders. Helen Lemire, of the University of Ottawa's Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, says there is a parallel between pre-Quebec Revolution Montreal, where much of the usage was in English, and present-day Ontario, where English reigns even in communities with a significant French presence.

"There is a remarkable effort on the part of Franco-Ontarians to be proud of their language and their culture," she says. "It's a natural progression. In the past, the province has been [more] in isolation; but the [French-speaking] community has been more involved in education and hospitals. Now, people are trying to let it go further than that."

Already it has gone too far for some. One local paper has published a letter saying it's about time Ontarians stopped French from "creeping into English Canada," and on Wednesday, Gallegos' counterparts in Russell planned to "ferry English speakers to numerous English-language meetings." Suddenly, it feels like 1997 all over again. ■

Firefighters sued for not saving house



AVIVA SHED volunteer firefighters over a \$400,000 insurance payout

BY RACHEL MENGELSON • If your house burns down, can the insurance company blame the firefighter? It's a question being tested by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia right now.

Last summer, Diane and Larry Stonehouse discovered a fire in one of the bedrooms in their home in Cape Breton, N.S. Two volunteer fire departments responded and extinguished the flames. But after they left, the fire re-ignited, completely destroying the house and its contents. Aviva Canada, their insurance company, covered the loss, but a few weeks ago the Stonehouses learned that their contract is not over its insurance company is suing the fire departments for \$400,000, alleging "causation and negligence."

The Stonehouses first heard of the legal action, filed in Cape Breton on July 25, from the media. The word "part" is lost in their name. That is Diane Doane, who is the daughter of a volunteer firefighter, and her husband, Larry, who repairs oil engines and pumps for the fire departments. The firefighters the Stonehouses are supposedly suing are "friends, neighbours," says Diane. "It's one they're dragging through the mud."

The North Sydney and Frenchville fire departments declined to comment on the lawsuit, which alleged they "negligently started or facilitated or encouraged" before leaving the scene. But Bent Stacey, the region's deputy fire chief and volunteer captain, says he was "disappointed" to learn of the lawsuit, considering the "millions of dollars" fire departments save insurance companies every year.

On top of everything else, the sue comes at a bad time for the province's volunteer departments, which are already struggling with an aging membership. "We're very sick, community, very rural," says Diane. "We're lucky they had to travel to come to us." ■



FRANCE SIGN
Hello, many
firefighting "it's
the '90s again"



DOES CHINA HAVE IT RIGHT?

Beijing is riding the wave of the future, argues a renowned internationalist

BY MAURICE STRONG

The China as portrayed in much of the Western media is far from the China that those of us who live here as foreigners, sharing in the excitement and the progress of this remarkable and dynamic country, find so compellingly attractive. As one who has been coming to China for many years and who now speaks most of its language, I cannot help but contrast, with anxiety, what I see and experience here with the negative usage to which we assign in the West as expressed from the outpouring of sympathy at the tragic earthquake that caused such severe death and suffering in Sichuan province, accompanied by attempts by some to blame this on the Chinese government. In, no government could have responded so effectively and speedily to a disaster of such enormous proportions, and few if any were better prepared to do so.

True, the devastating impact of this earthquake and its aftermath reveal weaknesses and inadequacies in governance at the local level. China has been making progress in building a vibrant, modern society, but inevitably it will fail to cope with massive problems left by an ailing past. Still, this progress is clearly discernible by any standard. China has raised tens of people out of poverty this century; its education system is deeply committed to an objective of ensuring that

Inset: China's different faces: soldiers (left); a young woman (right); and a young woman (bottom) at the Olympic torch relay

LIAO JIANG/REUTERS (TOP); KORN BERRAH/GETTY

those who have been left behind are able to participate in the benefits of its dynamic economy.

The tensions that the Chinese and foreigners living here continue to experience are minimal and for the most part understandable, given that no nation has suffered from societal breakdown, internal conflict and foreign migration more than China has in the past century. It is a small wonder that the Chinese place such emphasis on the need for internal stability and security. And both the Chinese and the foreigners who appreciate the benefits of that understand and are inspired by the advancements that can take to be made in the movement toward more democratic processes and respect for human rights. Instead, we must realize that even in our own societies the standards we expect China to adopt are those that have only emerged, and not yet fully, itself up to ourselves. The Chinese will be much more influenced by our example than by the uniformed and hypocritical content of so much of our criticism.

Societies progress at different speeds, and in different ways, toward incorporation into their political and social systems of the highest principles and values no which they agree. China has made immense progress toward meeting the goals and objectives articulated by its leaders of producing a heterogeneous society guided by norms that will meet the needs and aspirations of all its people and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world society. Indeed, it is embarking on a distinctive and unprecedented pathway to a new model of development based on utilizing the methods of capitalism to achieve the goals of socialism—a socialist market economy. The Chinese will have a great role in the success of making this transformation. Following the example of the traditional industrialized countries would not be sustainable for China, or for the world. To be sure, this is a momentous change that is still a work in progress, but it is all of our concern that China be successful in doing so, and that we lend it our understanding and support.

Our demands and policies aimed at undermining China's progress and dismantling its policies and institutions can only be counterproductive, and reinforce our own failures. For there is not a single issue world over that can be resolved without China's co-operation. In our view, we should forge a legitimate and constructive critique and criticism, but that these be

staunch and support. Our demands and policies aimed at undermining China's progress and dismantling its policies and institutions can only be counterproductive, and reinforce our own failures. For there is not a single issue world over that can be resolved without China's co-operation. In our view, we should forge a legitimate and constructive critique and criticism, but that these be

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THE CHINESE WILL BE MUCH MORE INFLUENCED BY OUR EXAMPLE THAN BY OUR CRITICISM



A HIMALAYAN source of an earthquake-damaged Tibetan shrine, last month, people washed up in an interior wall panel (left)

resolved by engagement with China as a full partner, rather than by the kind of uncompromising hostility and bias we so often display.

We should continue to facilitate China's full participation in the policy and decision-making process by which the future of all of us is being shaped. Climate change is one issue that is especially relevant. China realises that it will be one of the most vulnerable victims of climate change and is already taking serious measures domestically to avert

disasters that reflect the geopolitical alignments of the past, most of which are related to the size and nature of the economy. This could be given within China. Recent events that undermine continuing progress should not obscure the impressive progress that has already been made.

China is the prime example of China's remarkable commitment to reducing the intensity of its territory while accommodating the important differences that

A MASSIVE GENERATOR AT THREE GORGES DAM, AND BELOW: A FLEET OF migrant workers in Beijing, pre-Olympic Games

and its agencies

China may be, and is, truly prepared to play a constructive and leading role in this process. It is in its own interest to continue to subject China to the same informed, persistent and forceful attacks that can only serve to nourish its own nationalistic and unilateral tendencies. But China will not and cannot be expected to be subservient to the decisions and influences of the small number of more developed nations that continue to assert dominance in international policy decisions making and institutions, which they have enjoyed for so long.

Unfinished and abso-

lutely final critics of

China should ask them selves why it is that the majority of Chinese today are better off better integrated than ever, why more overseas Chinese are returning

to China,

and why more foreigners are enjoying conditions of life here that make them want to stay, even if it involves changing their employment to do so. Indeed, I am one of the many who enjoy and appreciate being in China, and being caught up in the momentum of the remarkable dynamism of the unprecedented transition that that generation is experiencing. Indeed, I feel privy to participate in it. The re-emergence of China as a world leader is one of the most important events of this period of history, and one that will have a profound and deep impact on the future of the entire human community. This is the China we know and want the world to know. The Beijing Olympics, which will focus the world's spotlight on the new China, will provide a unique opportunity for the world to view China as it people and friends do. ■



and

between the two societies, as Beijing did with Hong Kong, China will continue to defend its own frontiers and territories while respecting the sovereignty of its neighbours. To be sure, this process has been a difficult and even painful one for many, but both China and Tibet continue to learn and to accommodate the changes that will enable Tibet to retain its distinctive cultural and religious heritage while according a peaceful and growing opportunity for a better life. Even the Dalai Lama does not advocate

pacific negotiations.

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WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS A NEW AND IMMENSELY INCREASED DEGREE OF CO-OPERATION



COURTESY OF CHINA DAILY AND SHUTTERSTOCK

REUTERS/JADEK/CHINA DAILY



TURKEY'S SHADOW WORLD

Is the fight between secularists and Islamists about money?

BY ADAM R. KHAN • It has all the hallmarks of a thriller: in the dark underbelly of Turkey's political and military establishment, a shadowy group of ultra-nationalists plot to topple the democratically elected Justice and Development Party (AKP) government. A coup is planned for 2009, the details of which are allegedly discovered in the diary of a retired admiral. In January 2008, the government's top secret agents are arrested, including writers and oil tycoons, and the dastardly plotters—"desperates"—re-emerge. Turkey's political drama.

In response, the ultra-nationalists, self-appointed vanguards of the kind of extreme secularism that Kemal Ataturk, Turkey's founding father, adhered to the intransigent principle of the Turkish state. They accuse the AKP of "undermining" Kemalist "fundamentals"—citing among other things constitutional amendments passed by the AKP-dominated parliament that would

restrict the incoming head of state being born at "Turkish universities." The standoff escalates: The AKP accuses the ultra-nationalists of operating in a "deep state" with the name Ergenekon, after the legendary band of the original Turks people. It is the glue in the machine. AKP leaders warn, fearing only an echo of the right-wing established mess, carrying out assassinations and bombings intended to sow enough chaos and fear that the military would feel obliged to intervene with yet another coup.

The July 27 twin bombings at Istanbul's Glendale shopping center, just hours before judges began deliberating on the future of the AKP, only entrenched the rumors. That night, the war in Turkey since a series of coordinated bombings in November 2003, killed 150 civilians and injured another 450. And while investigations for bombing that killed 100 rebels drag, many suspect she was the hand of Erdogan.

This is Turkish politics at its most seedy, threatening what has become a stellar one century for this nation of 72 million with no tools to join the European Union. A 2,489-page indictment against dozens of men and women with alleged links to Ergenekon,

headed by "Turkish" prosecutors on July 14—eight days after further arrests, including two generals—accuses the alleged ring-leader of everything from violence to attacking people to money and honor. That case is still pending, although one against the AKP was resolved on July 10, leaving the party intact but reducing its state funding by half for 2008.

That decision not to close the AKP may look like vindication for the ruling party, but 10 of the 12 judges voted for closure, costing the constitutionally required consensus by a mere single vote. Yet of the 11 agreed that the AKP is involved in anti-national activities, reinforcing the belief that the Constitutional Court remains ideologically biased to the right-wing establishment. So the decision, according to some commentators, may only be a step of concern, and the message it sends is clear: the AKP should watch itself.

But is the AKP in fact preening Turkey for an Islamist takeover? The AKP is not trying to create a Taliban-style Islamic state in Turkey, says Ertegun Korbas, a Turkish journalist and founder of Basurtu, a media watching and press freedom advocacy group based in Istanbul. "It is, however, trying to build Islamic values in society." But Korbas adds that after six years of AKP rule, Turkey has

remained secular and has moved closer to a European model of social norms. So the power struggle between religious conservatives and ultra-nationalists, while real, may have more to do with reverence than ideology. In the end, it's about the money.

Since the AKP took power, Turkey has been booming. Serious reforms demanded by the European Commission as part of negotiations for EU membership have opened the door to foreign investment, prompting a flood of dollars and euros. Massive tourism revenues are remunerating citizens in Istanbul and other major destinations around global hot spots.

But the spoils of economic success haven't been spread evenly. In 2004 a article written by Middle East Quarterly editor and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, Michael Rubin, countered Turkish historians' complaints about the iron grip the AKP has on the economy, prioritizing its own interests ahead of the broader business community. "The growth of the Islamic business sector is apparent across Turkey," the report says, "and appears ultimately linked to the AKP's rule."

But senior, reportedly headed by a group of Islamic businessmen calling themselves the Anatolian Tigers, is based in central Australia, Turkey's religious heartland. And it seems poised to dominate Turkey's economy far into the future. "The change the AKP is introducing have an economic dimension, which involves the implementation of a

SPAIN: KNIGHTS TEMPLAR RIDE INTO COURT
A Spanish group, claiming to be heirs of the Knights Templar, are using Pope Benedict XVI, demanding the order be re-established in 2012. Pope Clement V, under pressure from the king of France, disbanded the Templars during their service in the Crusades. The alleged heirs asked the Vatican to rehabilitate the Templars and insisted that if they don't win, they will use the funds for USD 1 billion in assets the rich order, supposedly lost on dissolution.

PM TAYYIP ERDOGAN of the AKP changes materials are running a "deep state"

like passing off fake school textbooks in Kenya, a city in the heart of Ankara, and reducing taxes on some consumer goods.

But a party dealing in the dark world of shadow economics is nothing new in Turkey. "This is always the case when a new government takes over," says one Kurdish militia leader with links to Turkey's vast underworld, speaking on condition of anonymity. "One of the first things the economy follows is the people in power. That's the way it's always been." In fact, the "growing" of Turkey's official economy, which was estimated to be worth as much as USD 60 billion in 2003, has benefited previously marginalized Turkic groups with strong religious credentials, muscling out the secularists who nationalists—such as the AKP has hit the easiest drought to be associated with its results.

For some Turks, these new groups represent a new and even more powerful threat underground. "Turkish politics has always been run like a mafia," says one writer in Istanbul, but with class issues to Turkey's business leadership.

"The friendless ones there are agreeable like a mafia. They're not involved in illegal activities like drugs and smuggling—they are deeply religious people—but they run their businesses like mafias," he adds. "The close relationship between the AKP and religious foundations like the Nizamettin Foundation (Abdullah Gul, Turkey's president, is reported to be a former member) has created a sense of pedigree and business success—a sense of belongingness and family business. Considering the financial wealth it represents, that a country dominated does have the potential to meet a political war."

Whether the impetus behind the court case brought against the AKP is difficult to say, but what is beyond doubt is that, in the past, the benefits of the unofficial economy went to ultra-nationalists in the deep state, often through their media intermediaries. "Now the flow of money has changed hands," says the Kurdish militia leader. But Turkey's future is unpredictable. "The road ahead is very uncertain," he notes. "The AKP will not be closed. But in the final hour of Turkish politics, the end will be most impossible to predict."



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NO INTELLIGENCE

How good is the information provided by the CIA on Iran?

BY MICHAEL BOOG • In response to a recent article by Seymour Hersh in *The New Yorker* suggesting that the Bush administration had requested up to \$10 billion dollars for use in covert action against Iran, a highly respected and long-serving Iran expert and disseminator of CIA covert operations in the region has commented that the money would be wasted were the CIA to win control of it. "Information provided to the President by the CIA, which he will use to make his decisions, may prove to be fake or non-existent," says John Jones (a pseudonym), whose intelligence included more than 15 years of continuous overseas deep-cover service in several rogue nations before he recently resigned from the CIA in good standing.

Illustrating the CIA culture of bovine logic, bureaucracy, mid-level senior management, and schemes reflected in straining current and former employees, Jones claims that CIA human intelligence operations against Iran are designed to frig activity. "Because of the billions of dollars given to the CIA, the CIA will be something to advise. It has no intelligence on Iran and will instead be tempted to provide a false assessment of the threat," adds Jones, whose book about his career, *The Phoenix Factor: Inside the CIA's Dysfunctional Intelligence Culture*, was published last year.

This assessment of U.S. intelligence gathering in Iran turns out to be an attack directed at the efforts of Israel's intelligence service, the Mossad, and an effort to disavow Iranian nuclear ambitions since the early 1990s. At the end of June, Al Ahwaz, 45, was sentenced to death in Tehran for operating as a recruited Mossad spy in Iran. Ahwaz's accusers not only admit that he provided intelligence to his own officers about Israel's nuclear program, but also claimed an operation aimed at disrupting "research projects." An unnamed Iranian source working in a counterintelligence capacity admitted that in one case the failures caused by the munitions were "irreversible and big."

According to Jones, the Iranian intelligence target is not as difficult as it may seem. "The determination to get out and recruit [Iranian sources] has been lacking, but there has always been plenty of money," he says. "Iranians often have favorable opinions of the United States, and many have family members who are U.S. citizens living in the U.S." As opposed to other human intelligence recruitment operations, many potential Iranian sources are known to speak English and were educated in American universities.

With Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps having test-fired the Shahab-3 long-range rocket (whose 2,000-km enhanced range includes Israel)—there has been intense pres-



PAUL GANNON / Iranian diners watch dining of Shahab-3 missile

sure on Western intelligence services to noisy accusations about Iran's non-conventional weapons capability. Israel's largest city, Tel Aviv, has been monitored by an aide to Israeli Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei as a potential target for Iranian missiles, and the latest missile warfare exercise has made that the window for action is quickly closing.

The soldiers in Israel have indicated that a pre-emptive strike will only occur with U.S. approval due to the wide range of American interests in the region. Still, according to Jones, Israel may be the only country to have a clear understanding of the boasts of Iran's non-conventional weapons capability. "I know the range, and I know that the CIA has no human sources of any quality, and that the President, the U.S., and our allies are unwilling to damage the Iranian nuclear weapons force without the intelligence they need," he says. "When the President makes a decision, he'll be doing so blindly."

Michael Boog ("The Valence" in *My Godless Childhood*) served, about 12 years in the Mossad, recently appeared in *paperback*.

**WAITER,
THERE'S A
DIETITIAN IN
MY MENU.**

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Alcohol Recall: The Valence (by Michael Boog) © Stewart, about 12 years in the Mossad, recently appeared in paperback.

Dirt poor: eating mud to survive

BY KATE KENNEDY • The economy has brought some stability, new roads and more food to Haiti—but gas prices are rising again, and with them the fear of more violence.

The price of gas is already badging to where it was in April when violent mobs left seven people dead. Haitian government had to file bankruptcy twice because there weren't enough funds to keep the plus going. Higher gas prices quickly translate into a higher cost of living for the poor because the cost of basic



WITH GAS and food prices rising,
poor Haitians devour mud cakes

and transporting food go up. To make matters worse, the food subsidies that protected the population with some relief over the summer could run out by September, leaving families who have to pay for school fees particularly vulnerable to malnutrition. "There is widespread concern that there will be more violence," says Sarah Wilson, the Caribbean spokesman for U.K.-based agency Christian Aid.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Poor infrastructure and a heavy reliance on imported food have made the country one of the hardest hit by the spike in food and fuel prices earlier this year. According to the UN, three-quarters of its population live on less than \$1.25 a day. Wilson is afraid the country could see more cases of starvation within the next year.

A recent report in the Guardian newspaper says that already more people are eating locally made "mud cakes"—literally patties made of mud—because of hunger pains. Tragically, pregnant women on the day patatas to try and get more iron in their diets, but children are eating them too. Dr. John Carroll, who spent much of his past 27 years working as an aid worker in Haiti, says the next blow may be a water crisis. "It wouldn't be surprised if there is water stress in the future because of a lack of clean water for the vast majority of Haitians," he says. ■

About to snap? Then stay back.

BY CAMERON ANDREWORTH-VINCIENNE • Paparazzi have long been seen as a nuisance, but ever since the high-speed car chase that ended with the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, they've also been increasingly seen as a threat.

Given that perception, it's perhaps not surprising that Los Angeles is now mulling over the idea of introducing an "anti-paparazzi" law to keep aggressive photographers at bay. Last week, anger John Major, along with actors Milo Ventimiglia and Eric Roberts, joined forces with elected officials and law enforcement leaders to discuss ways to regulate the flagrant camera slingers. They wanted state down an ordinance proposed by local councilwoman Debbie Shore that aims to create a "personal safety zone" between photographers and their targets. "My biggest concern about this issue is my right to say no," said Ventimiglia, while Major proposed that paparazzi be required to obtain a license so they can be easily identified.

The move might also help to protect the paparazzi. After all, the farthest away they are from their targets, the less likely they are to be punched out. In June, Malibu residents were caught on videotape chasing a phoneographer on a beach who was trying to snap a few photos of actor Matthew McCormack. The 29-year-old paparazzo later told police that he was beaten up by a mob of surfers who threw him over in the ocean.



PAP ATTACK: Regulating celeb
snappers is like trying to herd cats!

But some officials view the campaign as a waste of time. Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton said requiring paparazzi to register for a license would be "like trying to herd cats." Besides, he says, the paparazzi seem to be faking on their own. "If you notice, most [paparazzi] started wearing clothes and behaving. Paris [Hilton] is out of town not bothering anybody," said Gail and evidently Lindsay Lohan has gone gay; we don't seem to have much of an issue." ■

Executive privilege: blame others

BY PATRICIA A. TREVILLE • It was the first press conference since taking power eight months ago, and it didn't go well. Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, elected after her husband Nestor Kirchner was constitutionally banned from running for re-election, is facing an economic crisis. But it's a press conference last Saturday she did little but anger her critics in a breathtaking display of arrogance.

The trouble began in March when Fernández announced she would take agricultural



FERNANDEZ: Her economic policy is in ruins, but she has no regrets

expert taxes on key crops such as soy and wheat. The move was intended to increase government revenues while keeping domestic food supplies stable by making exports less profitable. But farmers, wanting to take advantage of surging world prices, protested and blocked roads for nearly four months.

Argentines sided with the farmers and her popularity tumbled to 21 per cent, but Fernández dug in her heels and sent the tax to court again, where her coalition had a majority. Then so, the bill didn't pass. Ministers of her own coalition rebelled, with her vice-president, Julio Cobos, causing the tie-breaking vote to defeat the bill on July 13. The resignation of the economics minister and head of her cabinet have since added to her political woes.

Many leaders might conclude that the policy was misguided, but not Fernández. At Saturday's press conference she admitted to just one mistake: underestimating the opposition. She also took some time to reject claims that the official inflation rate, which is pegged at nine per cent, is being manipulated to hide the true state of a lagging economy. That figure is widely disputed and most analysts put the actual number at more than 20 per cent.

The one thing lacking from the speech was any sign of a viable economic reform plan. Wherever it's marketed as open, investment is limited out of Argentina's assets, sending the Merval index down by 3.8 per cent. ■

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WHY YOU'RE STILL GETTING GOUGED

Inflated profits, regulations, taxes and timid shoppers keep prices high

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • Once a month, Harry Tobi's jump in his car—just after the morning rush hour and with a tank close to empty—and makes a 45-minute drive from his Vancouver home to Bline, Wash. After angling across the border using his recently acquired B-line pass, he'll fill up with cheaper American gas and scope off at a gas station, Bline or Bline, where the American fuel and taxation envelope push up the computer parts and memorabilia he routinely

buys online from the U.S. and has shipped there under his name. That cross-border shopping ritual costs him anywhere from \$50 to hundreds of dollars a trip—at the very least, the equivalent of a race cleaner exit, he says. This month, he plans to buy a piece of new computer hardware with a U.S. dollar statio. Buying the part in Canada would cost \$120, he cautions. As far Canadian retailers charging more than their American counterparts "I think they're just being greedy and gouging Canadians," he says. "I don't like it."

It wasn't supposed to turn out like that for Canadian consumers. When the Canadian dollar reached parity with the U.S. greenback in Sept. 18, 2007, Canadians celebrated. The most was trumpeted in headlines like the result of a sort-of sporting match: "U.S. Cdn = \$1 U.S." on a sun-painted road.

According to a recent report by BMO Capital Markets, prices of consumer goods in Canada, overall, were over higher than in the United States. That's down from 24 per cent in 2007, but the gap is still "extre-

mely large," says Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO. In fact, consumer prices have actually risen faster in Canada than in the United States over the past three months, suggesting that any ongoing price reductions we've seen so far thanks to the stronger dollar may well be going to get, adds Porter. The Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC) has also been tracking prices in the U.S. and Canada, and its informal survey pegs the difference at closer to 21 to 30 per cent. Building on the BMO survey, MacLean's looked at an additional 60 items—every item from car performance—and found Canadian prices are paying 24 per cent more than their American neighbours. A Honda Fit hatchback (U.S.\$14,995 in Canada) and \$10,499 in the U.S.—36 per cent less. The average price of Cheesecake in Canada is about \$2.60. In the U.S., it's more like \$1.80 or 45 per cent less. Foreign exchange of the price, themselves (based on reasonably advanced prices available as well as averages from across the country) suggest that, overall, retailers and wholesalers have not made any progress at all over the past year. "It's still very red and it's still there," says Bruce Cran, president of the CAC. "We're being gouged off."

Even purchasing power parity data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which shows currency conversion rates that eliminate the difference in price levels between the two countries, haven't budged. In the past five years, they've hovered stubbornly around 1.20, suggesting Canadian currency gives us 20 per cent less purchasing power than Americans. Moreover, we're seeing pricing distinctions between pricing chain in the auto industry. When a Canadian pays 21 per cent more than an American for a BMW, it amounts to a few extra dollars. When the man in question is a \$41,000 BMW sedan, suddenly it's an extra \$8,200. Earlier this year, under pressure from consumers, several automakers took full-page newspaper ads announcing new "Can-adien" policies. In most cases, the reductions were significant. Lessen the price of an \$10,900 SUV to \$10,400, or 5 per cent, now 14 per cent higher than the U.S. suggested retail price of \$8,700. But that was the exception. In general, the price difference is about as wide as the Grand Canyon. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for a Mazda CX-9 SUV, for instance, is \$30,900 compared to \$30,995 in Canada, or 13 per cent more. In its survey, BMO found that mid-size cars cost 29 per cent more in Canada, while luxury brands cost 30 per cent more. A MacLean's survey of 20 vehicles in various classes found 25 per cent higher prices in Canada. "If there are 1.5 million vehicle

sales a year in Canada and if each vehicle is on average three or four thousand dollars higher in price, that's about an extra \$6 billion a year that consumers are paying for cars," says Alan Irwin, a professor of economics at Carleton University, who has studied the price gap. Irwin's survey prompted him to travel across the border to Bellingham, Wash., to buy a new Saturn—costing about \$9,000, he says.

Canadians say the gap is due to the extra costs of doing business in Canada. Toyota says the extra cost is because its prices are higher here because of regulatory requirements (like oil credit). Toyota has distributor than most other automakers to close the gap. But that defense hasn't stopped Canadians from taking their money and

have made in Canada have less to do with giving Canadians the best deal possible than does trying to shut down the fast-growing grey market for over-priced car border shoppers. Cross-border dealers for consumers are less profit for automakers, who are putting enormous pressure on U.S. dealers not to sell to Canadians, says Jim Zito, manager of Toronto Auto Freight, which exports cars from the United States. Subaru, for example,

**US\$33.25
CAN\$51.65**

**US\$1.99
CAN\$2.49**

**US\$23,595
CAN\$30,995**



RECORD NUMBERS OF CANADIANS SHOP U.S. STORES



less well-frendly tolerated Canadians buying in cars from U.S. dealers. Newbie dealerships in the States to eat it out, says Zito. Canadians, however, aren't giving up. Last September, a 12-billion-dollar action lawsuit was launched against automakers, alleging they have been intentionally pitting independent dealers who sell cars across the border. "There's a big problem here," says lawyer Henry Jarowicki, whose firm filed the suit in September. "We feel there's absolutely no geographic and design difference to keep prices inflated in Canada."

There are plenty of places in the supply chain where price-hawkish car czars stay the benefits of living loose from such restraints. Manufacturers, for instance, often set out to get English as the norm. But retailers and wholesalers have no shortage of excuses for their pricing behaviour. Topping the list is the notion that Canada is a smaller market than the United States. Because American is a lead technology with better connectivity and, as a result, the number of bagoons, they inevitably end up with cheaper prices. And retailers don't get the same volume discounts as their American counterparts. On top of that, retailers aren't in a simply more expensive to do business in Canada. Transportation costs in a huge country like Canada are higher and there are unique costs associated with things like bilingual labeling.

Economists agree there's some truth to all

Why blockbusters still rule the world



In October 2004, *Wired* magazine editor-in-chief Chris Anderson published an article entitled "The Long Tail," in which he argued a new hypothesis: the Internet had forever altered the way that businesses operate. Very solid audiences could now be serviced as efficiently as mass markets, and could generate prodigious profits.

The title referred to the normal distribution of sales on a graph: a short tall head (where a very few products generate the bulk of sales) that quickly drops off to a long and narrow tail of thousands of products that barely sell at all. Anderson argued that thanks to the Internet, within limited choices and easy searchability, people will increasingly turn to the long tail of consumers who used to opt for the most popular products, actors, films and bands will now be free to savor the obscure little gems that they always really wanted. The head gets shorter and the tail gets fatter.

The implications for business were potentially enormous. It meant that an entire bestseller, for example, could do just as well by offering 10,000 books—all of which sell just five copies—in a traditional store selling 1,000 books 50 times each. In practical terms, Anderson argued, a music store that the age of blockbusters is over. Henceforth, he said, smart business would stop trying to build one or two massive hits in hopes of capturing the broad base of mass popularity. Instead, they would produce a broad range of products to exploit the wider possible array of interests and the like-related space available on the Web. When Anderson expounded his article from the book he'd just written up in the subbasement in 2004, he was met with a round of boos from the audience.

But anecdotal evidence only gets you so far. To truly evaluate the usefulness of the theory you have to dive into the numbers, and so Andy Albrecht, associate professor of business administration at Harvard, did just that. Albrecht porbed over data from two services. Rhapsody, the online music store created by Atkinson in his book, and Gaikin, an online movie rental. Turns out The Long Tail isn't battered by close scrutiny.

Albrecht found that although sales of obscure titles have risen, there are far more titles in the library that aren't sold. So, rather than the long tail getting fatter, it's getting longer and narrower. More importantly, sales of those obscure movies and songs aren't coming at the expense of hits. In fact, more money is being channeled into the select few mega-blockbusters. As Albrecht says

in his study, "they're not cool."

Well, as you may have noticed, the era of the blockbuster has stubbornly refused to play along. Last weekend, *The Dark Knight*, a highly promoted, big studio blockbuster, cracked records with the biggest opening weekend for any movie, ever. A few days ago it became the fastest movie ever to break the US\$100 million barrier in ticket sales, and it now sits at a record-breaking US\$1.3 billion worldwide. That would make it only the fourth movie ever to do so—and two of them have come in the past three years. In fact, of the 10 biggest opening movie weekends of all time, nine of them have come in the four years since *The Dark Knight*.

Finally, Albrecht's numbers fail to con-

vince some to mass consumers. Sure we all have a few unknown bands in our slacks, but by and large, things are popular because they're better than the alternatives. The explosion of options and choice doesn't change that. In fact, Albrecht's conclusions wouldn't even be particularly fair for the enormous popularity of The Long Tail.

So why did Anderson's thesis take off like wildfire? First, he argued, it presented a radical shift. We're attracted to any compelling argument that promises a fundamental change in the way we view the world, and history abounds with examples of an idea that seemed out to be wrong.

But perhaps most importantly, it pandered to our inner snob—the sort that believes we're above the broad mainstream, and that the Internet will set us free to indulge our unique and sophisticated tastes. The truth is less flattering. We like to think we are, at heart, connoisseurs of legitimate Bergman films that most of us never get around to watching. Student of a Banquet/AlphaGo can see we're busy reading *Pride & Prejudice* for the fourth time.

We all wanted to believe in *The Long Tail*, but we couldn't stay away from the blockbuster. While we'll sit the likes of endless choices, most of us are never going to venture far beyond the bestseller's list. Contrary to Anderson's advice, the future of business is doing pretty much what you've always done.

But the emergence of the Web means there may be a way to write a few lines from the flap you probably wrote off as useless.

In Anderson's defense, that probably would not have fit on a book jacket. ■



We like the idea of endless choice, but most of us don't venture past the bestsellers

Why great CEOs are born in July

BY JOHN SUTINI

Researchers have known for ages that the little leaguers who are the oldest in their age bracket are more successful, because they're bigger and stronger than their younger counterparts. But a new study shows that this advantage—called the "July effect"—applies to CEOs too.

Mauro Levi, a finance professor at UBC's Sauder School of Business, has found that the older students in each grade during their school days are more likely to become CEOs. He says the relative age effect is a "founding benefit," that "knows little." Older students tend to get more opportunities, and one opportunity leads to another until one day, a headstart was usurped by your leader's step experience, he offers you the corner office. That's how new falsehoods born in the summer, because due to grade school vacation policies, they're among the youngest in their class. Just 18 per cent of the CEOs of Standard & Poor's top 500 firms celebrate birthdays between July and September—even though you'd expect 21 per cent to have birthdays in those three months.

There's an interesting twist: while CEOs born during the summer are fewer in number, those who do make it, despite being younger than the competition as they grew up, tend to become the best performers. By surveying 449 companies, Levi, along with grad student Li-Qun Wang and David Hsu, discovered that the market value of firms with bosses born in the summer is about \$1.6 billion higher than the average. That's 15 percent more in a stock portfolio of companies run by summer-born CEOs in 1999 would have been worth \$100 in 2006. Whereas a portfolio invested in a portfolio of companies with a CEO born in the other three seasons grows just to pay for it.

Why are summer-born CEOs so successful? It's because they have spent their years learning the valuable age effect, says Levi. After a while, having to struggle against older opponents turns them into "pretty smart, pretty clever little guys." ■

Finally: the Bay is really changing

BY JASMEEN MOHAMMAD

The answer to love live can be found in your DNA. At least that's what a new site called Grandparents.com claims. For \$799, the Swiss company promises to hook you up with your perfect mate using a sample of your DNA. The site says "love is no coincidence," and that genetic compatibility between you and your partner creates a better sex life, a higherertility rate and healthier children.

The service, which launched this month, was inspired by a study at the University of Bern, Switzerland, where female volunteers sniffed men's T-shirts and rated them for attractiveness. The study found that women were more attracted to the smell of men whose HLA (human leukocyte antigen) molecules were most different from their own. Research has shown that we prefer mates with different HLA genes because it helps to produce offspring with strong immune systems.

Grandparents.com samples the provider by analyzing saliva samples to produce unique ID numbers based on customers' DNA. The website is for old people, but those plagued with an online sign-up system for a computer reading.

Taylor Brown, managing director of GrandParents.com, says that rather than building an own dating site, their strategy will partner with existing ones that could let customers include Grand Parents ID numbers in their profiles. "The goal is to make it a complementary to dating sites," she says.

So far, the company, which launched with US\$500,000 in seed money from investors, has been approached by two major dating sites. In the first nine days of operation, it signed up more than 270 customers.

Nate Ellingsen, an online marketing analyst at Jupiter Research, says the US\$759-million online dating industry is showing signs of saturation when it comes to new users, so sites will need to extract more money from existing customers. Unique services, such as the one offered by GrandParents, could help them do that. "An upselling tool it should get more attention," he says. "But I believe they'll need big partners." ■



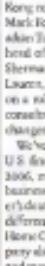
BIG NAMES are coming to NBC, and that means big changes too

BY ANTHONY KIRBY

Considering its age of 158, the Hudson's Bay Company is looking remarkably sprightly these days. When U.S.-based equity firm NRD Capital Partners snapped up the dowdy retailer last spring, it offered a fresh start. That's what the company's president, Thomas Brooks, a respected Canadian executive with experience at Holt Renfrew and a luxury Hong Kong retailer, told NBC's new divisional president, Mark Foster, who spent two decades at Canadian tire and Loblaws. And he's been enticed by Zaleen Asai, prior to that, Jeffrey Sherman, the former president of Polo Ralph Lauren, will replace CEO of NBC. "They're on roll," says Sherman. No doubt, a recent consultant in Toronto. "This will be a sensible change within the next 12 months."

We heard that before, of course. When U.S. finance Jerry Zucker bought NBC in 2006, many thought he'd quickly turn the business like NBC plodded along until Zaleen Asai took over as chairman in April. Things are different now. Asai, who will be NBC's acting CEO, will bring the high end think to Canada by upping prime-time focus, re-examining hybrids of the two channels. Lord & Taylor will be positioned a notch below Holt Renfrew, while the Bay will move upmarket. Some Bay stores will likely close outright, says Vancouver retail strategist Devoril Ian Gray.

"I understand for the people who invested in NBC who's right," says Gray. "The new guys are going to bring a mix of an aggressive approach to what renovation might look like." ■



Few CEOs are summer babies, but they're the successful ones



According to GrandParents.com, you split can last you to love



GOD FEEPIPES Managing the religious resurgence is a top-government priority

Templism is far from an isolated affair. Across China, popular favour for Buddhism is resurging. At the newly restored Fu Xiangjiang Temple in Shenzhen's market quarter, where lives of economic austerity are now leavened by comforts such as air conditioning in the eating hall, temple master Guan Rui says the situation is unlike anything he could have imagined 20 years ago. "In the 1970s we only had 30 or 40 temples here in Shenzhen," he says. In the 1980s, there were 70. After 2000 there were more than 300. Temple reconstruction is big business in other parts of the country as well. In the village of central Fujian province, for instance, a recent survey by McGill University professor Kenneth Dean estimates that there is now one temple (operated for every 100 villagers) and on average 150 days of religious observance a year. China's main Buddhist and Taoist sites and festivals are overawed with crowds of pilgrims.

Christianity, too, is booming, with an estimated six million new believers joining its ranks annually. More Protestantism than Catholicism on Sundays in China than in western Europe, Protestantism's intense heartfelt, achesome say. Although the government severely restricts missionary activities, many American evangelical churches see China as a new frontier even more promising than Africa and the former Soviet Union.

Seen purely doctrinally, China's religious reawakening can be called the largest religious resurgence in human history. It's "a social transformation completely unprecedented in the history of world," says James Miller, a professor of Chinese religion at Queen's University. Liking an observation he made about China's economic liberalisation, he adds: "China's economic liberalisation is powering the resurgence. Freedoms of belief partly flow from business freedom," Miller says. Growing numbers of Church members of thousands of new evangelists seem anxious to credit the traditional gods for their good fortune—to thank them and, perhaps, to acquire further blessings. "An old Chinese adage says, 'Those feet above the head there are gods,'" explains Xu Xia Wan, a former scholar who now chairs Chen's increasingly refined official policies at the country's bureau of religion. "Even when Chinese people are not religious," he explains, "when they look up, those feet above there are gods."

Caring from the mouth of a minister, this is remarkable. Beijing means an ideological confrontation to atheists—a central tenet of Marxism, the government's famous fear of religious regeneration, most notably involving the Falun Gong, a movement featuring denunciations of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism with a long history. The ministry at Shanghai's Jade Buddha

temple is still, however, a religious force in the sense outside Shanghai's Jade Buddha Temple could easily be confused with a major celebrity event. Limousines compete for curb space, and sophisticated urbanites line up for souvenirs as well as presents and walk-offs from every region of China to a genuine talisman beside the temple's ochre-yellow walls, its abbot, Master Jue King, results as a glimmer through the throng. Less than a decade ago, the 25-year-old monk he admires sits in Shanghai's booming core surrounded a ransacked trio of anti-religious purges. Today, thanks to donations from hundreds of nearly wealthy donors, it's thriving. As clouds of incense smoke rise from incenseburner towers and saffron-robed monks chant traditional prayers, the richly lacquered altars glow in the late afternoon yellow. Swings hang from the eaves across the perimeter. Jue offers a thought that just a few years ago would have seemed ludicrous in a country governed by atheist Communists with a long history

of repression. "This is a golden time for religion in China," he pronounces.

A member of the Chinese Communist party's central committee and one of the country's most powerful Buddhist leaders, Jue, at age 18, has already been a monk for 22 years. He recalls the aftermath of the decades-long Cultural Revolution era. "We were educated to be religious agnostics, in superstition," recalls Jue, who earned a mastership in a child only a few years after the religious pages of the *"San Jiao"* ended. Through the '80s and '90s, China remained barren ground. Now the altars of Shanghai's pre-eminent Buddhist temple are a glowing showcase for a religion with an estimated one million followers and a billion sympathizers. Evidence of traditional piety, the richly lacquered altars glow in the late afternoon yellow. Swings hang from the eaves across the perimeter. Jue offers a thought that just a few years ago would have seemed ludicrous in a country governed by atheist Communists with a long history

The ministry at Shanghai's Jade Buddha

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A MILLION FOLLOWERS JOIN CHURCHES EACH YEAR. TEMPLE-CUM-HOTEL COMPLEXES ARE BOOMING.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN ANJUN, PRINCIPAL U.S. EVANGELISTS ARE NOW TARGETING CHINA

age to Tibet and also have in Asia, explains Li Geiping, a professor of religion at Peking University. "We need Taiwan's investment. That's why we have a flexible religious policy." Religious buildings like those at Shanghai's Jade Buddha, which has a busy website and popular outreach programs. Under government ownership, other famous Buddhist sites like those on Putuo Island, home to many ascetic monasteries, are being redeveloped around massive new hotel and temple complexes. "The market economy is seriously hurting the religious nature of the monasteries," says Jing. "Lately he has been spent on teaching soft media, to the extent that the core religious functions of monasteries are in danger of becoming merely decorative."

For Chinese Buddhists with roots in the faith going back through the centuries, the 65-year-old Bodhisattva Zhen Jiang Guan, a 65-year-old Bodhisattva who lives in two-room house and works in a temple park on Putuo Island as a gatekeeper, says although the changes are causing some of the island's clerics, he welcomes Buddhist's change of fortune. "I'm happy that more and more people believe in Buddha," he explained on a stroll along the beach with his 60-year-old grand daughter and her family. And government policy, he suggests, can't easily control religion. "During the Cultural Revolution, all the temples here were destroyed. They destroyed the Buddhas. But we still prayed."

Forbidden activities. Religious forums are closely monitored by overwhelming numbers of police. The names of the temples may be masked, but they answer to masters of a wholly different type in Beijing.

In fact, Yu says, the sudden surge in religious fervour, and the flood of cash into the temples, pushes government intervention in every aspect of Chinese religious life. "Money flows directly into the temples," Yu notes. "In the past, people went to the temple to burn incense sticks, and the temples could not earn money. Now, because of the problem of 'overflowing money,' the managers...need to have a script supervisor after getting rich. They cannot become too rich." Under this regime, the day will come when the names of the temples will end in rats, political questions.

But Jing warns that government oversight of the religious resurgence may undermine the spiritual integrity of the temples and monasteries. However, especially about the growing commercialisation within many temples and extensive business operations like those at Shanghai's Jade Buddha, which has a busy website and popular outreach programs. Under government ownership, other famous Buddhist sites like those on Putuo Island, home to many ascetic monasteries, are being redeveloped around massive new hotel and temple complexes. "The market economy is seriously hurting the religious nature of the monasteries," says Jing. "Lately he has been spent on teaching soft media, to the extent that the core religious functions of monasteries are in danger of becoming merely decorative."

For Chinese Buddhists with roots in the faith going back through the centuries, the 65-year-old Bodhisattva Zhen Jiang Guan, a 65-year-old Bodhisattva who lives in two-room house and works in a temple park on Putuo Island as a gatekeeper, says although the changes are causing some of the island's clerics, he welcomes Buddhist's change of fortune. "I'm happy that more and more people believe in Buddha," he explained on a stroll along the beach with his 60-year-old grand daughter and her family. And government policy, he suggests, can't easily control religion. "During the Cultural Revolution, all the temples here were destroyed. They destroyed the Buddhas. But we still prayed."

GO FORTH AND PRAY, COMRADE

History's largest religious revival is unfolding in China, and the government is smiling on it

BY PAUL WEDDETT • On almost any day, the scene outside Shanghai's Jade Buddha Temple could easily be confused with a major celebrity event. Limousines compete for curb space, and sophisticated urbanites line up for souvenirs as well as presents and walk-offs from every region of China to a genuine talisman beside the temple's ochre-yellow walls, its abbot, Master Jue King, results as a glimmer through the throng. Less than a decade ago, the 25-year-old monk he admires sits in Shanghai's booming core surrounded a ransacked trio of anti-religious purges. Today, thanks to donations from hundreds of nearly wealthy donors, it's thriving. As clouds of incense smoke rise from incenseburner towers and saffron-robed monks chant traditional prayers, the richly lacquered altars glow in the late afternoon yellow. Swings hang from the eaves across the perimeter. Jue offers a thought that just a few years ago would have seemed ludicrous in a country governed by atheist Communists with a long history

JONATHAN HILL/SHUTTERSTOCK

OUR LADY OF THE TELEVISION CABINET

A Filipino family was instrumental to find Virgin Mary's physical image at the glass doors of their television equipment centre when they closed it. After hearing the image off, the family started praying to the virgin, and insights soon learned of it, including while bringing gifts, who said it relieved her son's throat. Now this glass has become a community shrine that the Catholic Church has presented to investigate

CAN THE LITTLE BLUE PILL TREAT A STROKE?

**Viagra's newest uses
may be nothing short
of revolutionary**

BY ALEXANDRA SCHROEDER / A 52-year-old woman, René Jankauski, is not your typical Viagra user. In fact, no one could have anticipated the drug-off label, it's best to go back to the summer of 2000. At 5 a.m. on July 17, just as it was getting light, Jankauski, a nurse, awoke and realized that she could not move. Her legs, arms, torso and head muscles were completely paralyzed. She could hear her husband getting ready for work at the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, but she could not move her lips, much less eat or drink. She had been sleeping on the white, leather couch in the living room—she had woken up in the middle of the night and had to waken up to walk her husband by returning to their bed room—and as when he came to the stairs and asked if she was okay, she lay still and stared at him silently. The only conscious man-to-woman reaction that had not failed her shilly-shally to blinks. In reality, she was very far from well; she was not only paralyzed, she was having a major stroke. She was mute, aware, but unable to communicate; she was experiencing what's called "locked-in syndrome."

The condition is extremely rare, although exact numbers are unknown; it's estimated that 500 people in the world are living with this almost complete paralysis. Of those, about 14 per cent recover some limited voluntary movement—some wiggling of their fingers or toes. Most can't communicate only by blinking or through eye movements. The condition was demonstrated beautifully in the film and book, *The Thing About My Family*, which the author, Jean D'Ormesson, French author and chief of French *Elle* magazine before he had a stroke, depicted by blinking at a few letters read out by his physician.

On realizing that something was seriously wrong with Jankauski, her husband, Roger, called 911 and then followed the ambulance to the local hospital. For four days, he lived



A BRAIN UNLOCKED: A stroke left René Jankauski with "locked-in syndrome," made famous by a book by French *Elle* editor Jean-Dominique Bauby (right). She's made a dramatic recovery.

by her bedside. By that time, Roger, 50, was desperate. His wife, who had four children from her previous marriage, was still completely paralyzed, and since doctors assured her she wasn't going to get any better, they had offered to "euthanize" her. Through her wits and her will, she had fought off despair. Her will, her love, her husband, her family had been through word of mouth. Amongst them, Monique Bauby, Roger's editor at *Elle*, had called Michael Chopp, a neuroscientist, had been doing research, feeling hopeful, better known by his trade name, Viagra, to reduce that had had strokes. Although they had never tried the treatment on humans, they offered to give Jankauski high

doses of the drug, at three times what is prescribed for sexual dysfunction.

Since 2001, Roger and Chopp have been studying and experimenting with sildenafil. Working with mice and rats, they would induce strokes and test how quickly the rats recovered with and without the drug. The rodents were then put through a battery of functional and memory tests. Some were cowed in mind, anxiety stricken, and tested on how long it took them to pick them off; others were tested on their coordination and balance skills. In addition, the doctors probed

pli through their flooding tube, Jankauski started being able to move her head and smile to raise about an inch—but she was able to move her fingers and her arms a little. After nine months, she was able to crawl, and very gently move her legs at the knee from front to side. After a year, she began to recover her speech. "It's amazing," says Silver, reminiscing in an interview. Macdonald's "the best memory of patients for 22 years, and I've never seen such sort of recovery before."

Of course, given that Jankauski was the first human to take the drug, it's

become neurons, explains Silver. This could have tremendous importance in the treating of Alzheimer's patients, or any other disease that affects cognitive impairment, but none of these applications have yet been tested, says Chopp. "There are no other massive treatments for the brain," explains Chopp. "This is really remarkable."

Following the success of the animal trials, Silver and Chopp have now started Viagra trials on human stroke victims, which are still in the safety testing stage. Some doctors read about Jankauski's story—it was published in the *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences* in 2006—and have put their own stories positive on Viagra, off-label. They report "remarkable" improvements, says Chopp, although so far the evidence is purely anecdotal.

As the first patient to try this therapy, Jankauski has made a remarkable, if incomplete recovery. She has regained some movement in one hand—the car type, and is writing a memoir about the experience of being locked-in. She has regained limited use of her voice—she speaks slowly and softly, although she sometimes fails all our milestones—because she is unable to get up from her wheelchair, or dress herself; she has to live in a nursing home, 540 km from her old house. Although she is now no longer taking the medication, since the doses required were prohibitively expensive once her medical aid finished, there are no side effects to interfere with her speech and articulation, five years after the stroke that paralyzed her.

Silver sees her every three to six months, and seems encouraging. "Dr. Silver has told me I will walk again by Christmas," Jankauski says. "It's always nice that no matter what kind of year it is, it's clear that she doesn't give up, because her husband continued so many experiments and made so much progress, she refuses to give up hope."



SHE WAS AWAKE, AWARE, BUT ALMOST TOTALLY PARALYZED. SHE WAS EXPERIENCING LOCKED-IN SYNDROME.

what was happening inside the brain, measuring blood flow with MRI and brain activity by counting the difference in oxygen production (Neurons act necessary to sustain metabolism and process information.)

The studies conducted over seven years supported the findings of silver, causing the animals to produce more neurons, more synaptic connections and to grow the nerve cells in the brain damaged by the stroke. The Viagra-treated rodents recovered more quickly from the stroke-induced brain injuries; they were smarter, more coordinated, and had better memory function than the control group. Another study put elderly rats on Viagra, and they had better memory—neuron density counts that hadn't taken the drug.

Two months after being fed the first created

responsible to know for certain if it was the same dysfunction drug that caused her recovery, says Silver. (Jankauski was switched to Cialis after two years, which is part of the same family of medications, but works on cheaper for high doses.) Viagra dilates blood vessels, which is why it helps erectile dysfunction and why blood vessels stand up straight. The dilating effect brings more blood to the brain, which may help the organ heal itself. The drug also encourages the brain to produce more neurons—grey matter—is pharmacologically stimulating neurons to

TONICS

A BIBLICAL SUBSTANCE WITH THE GIFT TO HEAL?
Catalyzed in Christian stories, Resuscitines may have value relieving symptoms of asthma. An Indian version of the resin yields an extract bearing a chemical called AKRA. Scientists at a California university gave a trial group capsules of the extract. After a week, subjects reported a reduction in pain and stiffness associated with osteoarthritis. In addition, fluid drawn from joints showed a reduction in enzymes associated with the condition.

OLYMPIC ATHLETES THEN AND NOW

Since the first modern Olympics in 1896, athletes have gotten better at being the best

BY RACHEL MENDICKSON • When U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz accumulated an unprecedented seven Olympic golds in the 1972 Munich Games, it seemed no-shoulder could be broader, no muscles more defined. But next to Michael Phelps, the U.S. swimmer swam for eight days in Beijing, whose searing sun烤ed skin much longer than his own. In fact, Phelps' height, and some 14 feet broad like Spitz, Spitz is reduced to little more than a fit athlete with poor taste in swimwear.

Since the first modern summer Olympics were held in Athens in 1896, athletes have gotten progressively better at being the best. The first Olympians were amateur college kids who happened to excel in sports. Today's track stars, swimmers, and gymnasts are career athletes whose goals and training regimens have been scientifically engineered to maximize performance.

Uniforms have also come a long way since sprinters raced the track in Athens in plain white tops and baggy shorts. The serpentine mineral oil that sloshed today's runners was named in viral tunnels, and created to repel heat. Likewise, when Phelps hurdles into the pool in Beijing, he'll have on a full-body Speedo LZR racing suit designed to be faster in water than skin.

As the formula for success is performed, the podium has become increasingly elusive, and what athletes will do to get there more extreme. Where Canadian track star Ben Johnson famously tested positive for steroids in 1988, doping-mad sprinters look sleek, winged and bodybuilders lose what little remained of their muscle. In Beijing, a couple of hundred swimmers will be vying to outlast today's cheats' blood doping; that includes athletes' ovaries rather than their muscles.

After more than a century of arriving far pastures, the locus of human body may be within sight. According to a recent study, in half of all events, the world record will be set in stone by 2025, and the remainder crystallized by 2050. In the meantime, the quest to be fitter, stronger, better rages on. ■

With Ben MacQueen
and Jonathan Gershman



1972

Spitz (left) won seven golds swimming. Phelps wins silver



2008



1896

Track and field: U.S. athletes who competed in Athens, British athletes, including United Chelmsford from left)



1988



1908

Gymnastics: exhibition sport, London, rhythmic gymnast, Athens



2004



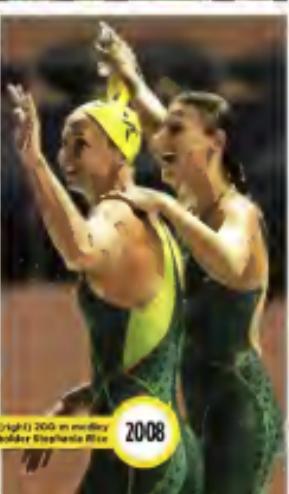
1912

Swimming: (left) Australians win silver, gold, (middle) U.S. wins



1924

Track, 400 m: (right) 2005 m relay recordholder Stephanie Rice



2008



TABLE TENNIS TEMPEST

The best players come from China. And that can be a problem.

ST. ALEXANDRA BEING — Five Chinese table tennis players are similar to many of our imported goods: they come from China. Four of the five athletes representing Team Canada at the Olympics were originally from this Asian superpower. All the top of our national rankings too, Chinese players dominate; they represent seven of the top 12 men's table tennis athletes, and six of the best 10 women. Canada is by no means alone in this situation; all of Team USA's — both men and women — were trained in China, and moved to this continent as adults.

One reason for the hegemony is China's production table tennis stars athletes as if they were going out of style. Since the sport was first introduced to the Summer Olympic Games in 1988, Chinese players have won 16 of the 22 available golds. They also lead in the world rankings. The top four men in the world are from China. The best male player in the world, at 24 years old Wang Hao, who holds his record like a pair of chopsticks, who's known as the penholder god, has been No. 1 in the world for 10 straight months, and is widely expected to win gold at the Chinese players playing against each other?

summer's Games. For the women, the title has an even more pronounced: all of the best five women in the world are Chinese, and many of the world's competitors and with

Since the Chinese are so much better at Ping-Pong than the rest of the world, there are lots of top-notch players in China who aren't good enough to play for the national team, but could make their reputation outside China. What this leads to is "Ping-Pong imperialism," explains Tony Kuan-Hoof, director

"general of Table Tennis Courts, with less-than-top-notch Chinese players switching allegiance, and moving abroad to represent another country." You can't make it between Poland and France," says Dan Scudellari, a coach of the US men's team. "And it's just Chinese players playing against each other."

This situation is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, Ping-Pong immigration helps talents from countries like Canada and improves the overall quality of the game. Athletes and coaches are invited according to their results on the international circuit, so it's important to have the best in the country regardless of where they were trained. But when the top-ups go to certain Chinese immigrants, there is less of an incentive to develop homegrown talent, says Ben Edwards, executive director of the

Matthew 27:23 Textus Receptus Annotation

And Canadian-born players find it harder to compete and win. Once they have their agent sorted, Chinese players find they can enter dominating national competitions. And in the international circuit, they "often take the spot" of the Canadian-born players, says Étienne Tremblay, the lead coach of Club Taekwondo Esplanade, one of the best training hubs in Quebec. While this may be great for international results, it can leave players disengaged and frustrated, he adds.

Eighteen-year-old Shen Qiang says he was invited to Canada in 2004, and shortly thereafter began winning Canadian junior competitions. This summer he will be a proud representative of the Canadian Olympic team. While he didn't originally plan to have his family remain in Canada (the case with his family, who live in Toronto), he is pleased. Table Tennis Canada's sports program is in and looking forward to the fall opening of the new 34,000-square-foot centre in Ottawa, where he will work harder on his game. Born in, and a native of, China, Shen first picked up a paddle at age 11, had left home and quit school to move in Hefei, a city 100 kilometers west, to train full time and represent the province of Heilongjiang. The competition in China was extremely intense, he says. A table tennis player can expect to play as many as 10 hours a day, he says. The athletes compete in leagues, a day, for days. The training schedule is grueling.



WANG RAO CHI¹, 24, is No. 1 in the world. Pierre-Antoine Léonard, 36, wins in Montréal, Paris, or Geneva.

hours southwest of Beijing. The camp was hard work, emotionally difficult and draining. Hence says, "you'd lose the food, and the intensity and six hours a day training schedule were grueling. The Canadians weren't even playing against the national team, but they were all about a band, you know, who sat naked from Canada at the cabin level at the time, but it was now raised ninth at senior level." It was "enforcing," he adds, then the top Canadian players could not keep up against the Chinese. "What made it worse was the fact that the Chinese players would laugh at the Canadians when they entered the hall." Some players were courageous, but others would make fun of them. "It would winces beginners," he says. "They can do that because they are the best in the world, but for us, it was hell. We just wanted to leave and come home."

The chairman of the rules committee for the ITTF "Something had to be done to develop younger table tennis athletes and not just develop adult athletes in from China," he says. Unlike their success on the courts, the Chinese do not dominate the International Table Tennis Federation, a organization on a one-vote-per-club basis.

Canada was one of the countries in favour of the eligibility restrictions, says Steenbøler. Many countries were importing Chinese Ping-pong rackets, but trading associations and IITC

A black and white photograph of a young boy, Kyle Thomas, sitting at a desk. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and holding a small trophy in his right hand. On the desk in front of him are several books. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



A BOY SO STRONG HE GIVES CARS A LIFT
Ryan Thomas, 12, has been named the world's strongest boy in a recent contest. He has a weight-lifting program that includes gym activities such as sit-ups and pull-ups. Ryan won the competition by pulling up 78 200-lb logs while flipping 300-lb truck tires and carrying 85-kg bags of flour. His superhuman abilities have made him popular. "Everybody seems to like it when I lift their cars."

ing their ranks with these elite players. This was more common in Europe, where players often big paychecks in professional leagues. Countries like Canada that refused to do this were being put at a disadvantage, he says, and the new legislation gives all countries the same rules.

set of rules (1988-1990). Canada will not track the citizenship of Ping Pong stars. However, athletes usually play in Canadian competitions, and gain a national ranking before the three- to five-year process is complete.

believe the rules will reshape the Cornhole/Ping-Pong landscape. Eighteen-year-old Mason Andrait Jevneau left home at 11 to compete

at high-level table tennis, moving from the small town of Maniwaki, Que., to Quebec City, where she lived with her coach and his family thereabouts, and then finally to Montréal, where she rounded off her physical education teacher so she could attend an elite sports school. Although she has devoted the greater part of her life to table tennis, she among the players who find it difficult to compete against the Chinese-trained athletes who dominate the

and the Canadian rankings. Currently, she is ranked 23rd in the Canadians and 13th for the under-20s. Her best result was at the 1997 El Salvador Juniors Open, where she finished fifth in the doubles event and fourth in the singles event. She trains 23 hours a week, at the Centre de Haute Performance in tennis de table de Montréal, and receives thousands of dollars from Sport Canada. It's not enough, though, to cover the cost of the flights, the accommodation, and the entrance fees to international competitions, the rags, and her parents also contribute several thousand dollars to the cost per year. Having sacrificed so much, she is looking forward to the implementation of the new system. "It will give a chance for Canadian players to play on the tour. It will be easier for us to go there, and we can fly for Canada."

HE GIVES CARS A LIFT
A new fitness fad is sweeping the nation: it's a weight-training program that involves such as 1-4-1-style situps. Weightlifting 200 lbs. to 300 lbs. by pushing up 20-lb. logs seven times, then back carrying 65-lb. barrels across one's abilities make him popular, Krye says. "It's like I'm their car."

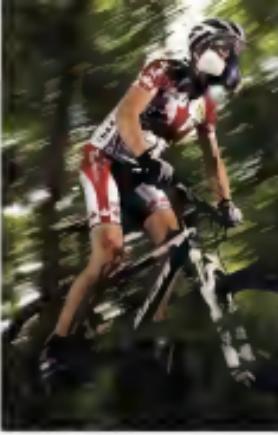
MASKS? AT THE OLYMPICS?

As one athlete puts it,
'this is about sport,
not fashion'

BY ALEXANDRA BREWER • When long-distance rower Taylor Barnard arrives in China later this month, he will need to decide whether to spend most of the Olympic Games wearing a mask. The 41-year-old athlete, who is ranked first in Canada in the 500-metre distance, will make his final decision once he breathes in the now notorious Beijing air. "If I have respiratory problems once I get to the city, I just lay one on and try to stay inside," says Edmonton-based Barnard.

Canadian authorities have divided toxic-carbon-filter masks, which remove particulate matter, in all athletes who request them during the Games. Some athletes have already decided to wear the charity-looking contraptions. Mountain biker Stevens McGrath, 23, ordered a few last year, and has worn it around his Victoria home to get used to it. He even tried biking in it, but his face got hot and sweaty, and he couldn't get enough airflow through it. Still, he will strap it on for the duration of the Games, making it only when he's competing or training. Although the mask is inconvenient, McGrath believes it will improve his performance. An estimated one in six Olympic athletes has exercise-induced asthma, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, including McGrath, and for these people the air quality could aggravate their medical problems at a critical moment. "I never concerned with how I look," explains McGrath, a member of the Ten Horses national cycling team. "This is about sport, not fashion."

Ozone authorities have insisted masks won't be necessary. The country has spent US\$10 billion on air-pollution measures, including forcing roughly 20 million cars off the streets and temporarily closing hundreds of factories in surrounding provinces. About one in 10 gas stations have been closed; many more have been fitted with devices to reduce



GEORGE HEATHROP/HANDOUT FOR TEAM USA

'WHEN YOU WEAR A MASK, YOU ARE BASICALLY SAYING YOU GUYS STINK,' SAYS ONE U.S. OFFICIAL

James Anthony may even had 90 per cent of Beijing's car on bad days. "When people get suffocated, they'll see they won't need a mask," says Jeff Buffalo, a senior adviser to the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee.

Still, the reality has open up a new competition among the countries involved in the Games. Hosting difficulties made some athletes ill during pre-Olympic protests held in China. This prompted Canadian authorities to try out a number of devices before choosing a simple carbon filter, which can be worn at rest, rather than during strenuous exercise. While the masks remove particulate matter, they don't like the high levels of nitrogen dioxide or ozone, which can also cause lung problems.

Mobile bars have been round to other national teams too. The British have developed one that can be set up at rest and during exercise. Initially the device were to be worn in isolation, although this is now strongly discouraged, in part because it would be seen as an insult to the Chinese hosts. "When you

wear a mask, you are basically saying you guys stink," explains Scott Schmitzgruber, performance director of the U.S. triathlon team.

Every athlete on Team USA has been issued with a specially developed high-tech filter (some members of the U.S. cycling team arrived in Beijing earlier this week wearing the black respiratory masks), causing a spokesman for USA Cycling to assure the athletes weren't trying to make a statement. Details about the U.S. medals are being kept top secret, so no one knows exactly what the haul will be. But the health-food approach is partly to create a psychological advantage—moralism is a strength. "This is the games before the Games," says Robert McCormick, chief medical officer for the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Whatever the desire, Canadian athletes will likely have one reason to wear out than from other countries. Officials have decided the best way to address the air-quality issue is to remove athletes from Beijing altogether. The track and field team will special train at the Games in Singapore, with most flying into Beijing just a few days before their competitions. The soccer, fencing, and swimming teams will also be housed in this Asian city, which has similar heat and humidity, but much less pollution. The local town and permission team will be in Kunming, and the water polo team in Australia. "We wanted to get them in a protected environment without the stress and acute distress that happens during the Olympic Games," McCormick explains.

Staying in Singapore, Barnard believes, far away from the smog and dust of the Chinese capital, is much better solution. "This is an event the whole world is watching. If the competition show up at the opening ceremony covering their faces, it will be a slap in the face for our hosts."

WHAT HIPPO WOULD WELCOME A DENTIST'S VISIT?

There are no hard feelings at the Dallas Zoo after Mahali, a five-year-old hippo, chomped on a zoo worker's hand during a training session. Keepers were trying to desensitize the Hippo to having hands and dental instruments inside his mouth when he bit a keeper's hand. She grabbed him with her nose and Mahali opened up again. The keeper spent the morning at a hospital having a tooth removed while a chastened Mahali had a session. In the end



PHOTO COURTESY OF GINGER HORST



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'THERE'S THIS ideal that cottageing is about self-reliance,' says a Cottage Life editor.

I CAN DO IT, HONEY

What possesses the non-handy to turn handy at the cottage?

BY RACHEL MEREDITH — When Marco Vierhet drove up to his cottage in north Muskoka, Ont., several summers ago, he arrived to find a dilapidated house, the result of do-it-yourselfer renovation gone wrong. The family had chosen not to put in renovations and instead balanced the cement piers and wooden posts to sink. The rear of the cottage had sunk so far underground the back door was sealed shut. But still, instead of calling a pro, the Tsoorons went to her car, pulled out a jack, hauled up the cottage and spent the next two hours charring bats of wood into the guy. What possessed the self-described "guy" that an otherwise swearing attorney to attempt a task he now deems fit as "wildly inappropriate"? The same attorney that implores brothers to fire up chainsaws and ladders to chisel out reefs in cottage country across Canada exclaims: "It's a different person when you're at the cottage," says Vierhet. "The atmosphere and time just seems more easy."

Whether because of bravado, timidity or the sense of eugenics, when city dwellers escape to the outdoors, they are willing to undertake projects that would be otherwise unthinkable. "There's this ideal that cottageing is about self-reliance. There's a sense that we ought to be able to

more patients. Likewise, the ER at South Shore Regional Hospital in Bridgewater, N.S., saw a 25 per cent spike in visits during the summer. South Shore ER doctor Christian Pugh surmises this influx can point to the mishaps of what he calls "severely unskilled" amateurs who attempt significant construction projects at the cottage for pleasure, or because they're unwilling to wait for a pro or pay someone, but he says the price these "abattoir-cater-disk workers" pay isn't worth it. The same week he talked to Muskoka, Pugh had treated a man who broke his left wrist mauling a log. "We'll have to undergo surgery in fibrosis. Even those who should know better suffer lapses of judgment at the cottage," says Pugh, recalling a fellow physician who cut several moles in his thigh while riding a chainsaw without protective gear, and was off work for months. "People aren't prepared for how this could possibly impact that is how," he says.

The concept of "weekend warrior" is one that's familiar to the tradespeople in Canada's cottage areas. "A lot of people like to come up and take on those projects with half a clue and it blows up in their face," says Dan Flynn, owner of ADF Plumbing in Dorset, Ont. The tendency of novices to attempt their own upgrades, renovations and repairs is common that Flynn raises a point of attending the annual Cottage Life show in Toronto to familiarize himself with the gadgets he will inevitably be called on to fix. When the installation of a water purification system or a shower stall goes wonky, embarrassment reigns. Flynn says the do-it-yourselfer is often at fault when he arrives to repair the blunder. Sometimes mistakes can cost dearly. Shelly Foy, who manages the local branch in LeBreton, Que., regularly fields calls from cottagers at the Lau residence who have gotten themselves in over their heads. In our instance, the wrong tubing had mapped so much moisture that mold spores were sprouting behind walls. While Flynn may silently shake his head at finding pieces that have been put together with a "hand drill and a cigarette," he never looks at the damage. Because "once you get them on for them, you get that toilet flushing, they're very thankful, and they call you for other work," he says.

HULA DANCER OPTS FOR A NEW IDENTITY

Officer Jerry "Jerry" Johnson, 34, a son of a 90-year-old New Zealand dad, his parents, a court has allowed him to retain his name. The girl, whose new handle has been kept private, has been legally renamed "Tulisa Diane Oluwa Ifeoma Ifeanyi." Judge Ross Hurford said he was dismayed by New Zealanders' lack of regard for kids, among them Number 16 Bluebird, Madrigal Chardonnay and Chardonnay Brutto Blassono.



NO HARD FEELINGS

They're giving back to a place that took everything from them

BY JULIA MCKEEHILL — Hearing how a brother and sister lost everything they owned on an island in British Columbia, you might think the community would be giving them land, not the other way around. Norilas and Richard Mansukani are donating a million-dollar property to Salalping Island, deserved by the San Francisco Choctaw in the charming, sunny, economic Martha's Vineyard of Canada, still, it's a place that has a dark history—eating back to the Second World War.

Japonés bombed Pebble Harbor. Then, as Ilse Mansukani tells it, a band of racism exploded on the West Coast. The Mansukanis were arrested by the Canadian government and forced off Salalping into prison camps. Ilse was there when the truck came to get them. Richard was one. "I can quite clearly remember being in the camp and the police coming in. I can remember the old yellow stripe on the log," he says.

Rose and Richard's foremothers owned a 177-acre farm, their grandparents owned and operated a network of greenhouses over 500 acres, fitting property that went right to the ocean. These days, Choctaw and Seldofsky's handle the island's unincorporated rural estate area. "Now, it's ours," says Richard. "Nobody can buy here. Gays with millions live here."

Back then, the Mansukanis were told by federal landowner Green Moose not to worry; their land would be held safely in trust. Green Moose was then the sheepishly appointed Indigenous "Captain of Tarcay Alata Property" (Moose) have lived on Salalping Island for five generations. According to Rose, Green Moose assured her mother, "When you come back, there won't be a chapter missing from your house." It was 1943 when the imprisoned Mansukanis got word that the government had sold their farmland. "They stationed our property without our consent. My grandpa had been working to create a living on Salalping since 1894," says Rose. "He sold my mother, with the torso of a pig, all the work she'd done in Canada disappareged."

In a phone interview from his solo-water-purification business on Salalping Island, Richard said, "Even when we were in the camps and they'd stolen our land, they came back and demanded that we finish paying the mortgage. So my father and mother did because they're honorable people. They did seriously try

off the mortgage." The Mansukanis were the only Japanese settlers to return to the island after the war—unless they had no property left there. "We had quite a little home going before, so my parents tried to rebuild that at down," Richard says, explaining why the family were back. "Whenever we were we had racism, so we just decided to put up with it." Their father told them, "You don't just be down dead and let people walk all over you." Rose remembers that "we started

ROSE AND RICHARD Mansukani are donating a million-dollar property to Salalping Island



'EVEN WHEN THEY'D STOLEN OUR LAND, THEY DEMANDED THAT WE FINISH PAYING THE MORTGAGE'

literally from scratch. We bought scrub land on Rainbow Road, where we still live today." Later, the Mansukanis bought more land, including an old fish plant in the village of Gauges. "You can still see the houses that my grandfather and father built every time you drive up the road," Richard says. "They are still there and people are living in them."

When they got back to Salalping, "the people tried to look us up again—we weren't the right color," says Richard. Rose remembers someone knocking at their door saying,

ENGLAND: SCARY SINGER CLEARS THE FIELD

A sugar beet farmer in Norfolk has raised an interestingly divisive design for a scarecrow. He's guaranteed to keep pigeons off his crops. He's also the first Briton to sing Amy Winehouse, with a faceless human, tomatoes, a bustier of bacon and a cigar in his hand. Romeo Martin Brooks says that the scarecrow's unlikelihood should win an award for best effort to agricultural. "I'd be happy to offer her a full-time job if she needs one when the sunsets is over."



A NOVEL CANDIDATE

Award-winning writer Tom King is running for the New Democrats

BY LEANNIE DEEGEE • There's a story Tom King likes to tell. It's about the Liberals and the Conservatives, and how they're a lot like the pair of hotshot business people who used to court his mother's friend. More, back when King was a child, and the two women ran a beauty shop out of a converted carport.

The story goes something like this: one of Nomi's suitors was a soft who chose a Cadillac and bared her to tears. The other was in a shiny red car in a Corvette. Nomi used to tease sister Vicki and both from the two, unknown which was the bigger pain in the neck, until King's mother finally said to her, "Nomi, maybe it's time for a new relationship."

"When I look at the Conservatives and Liberals, I say it's time for a new relationship," King told a delighted crowd last week at his campaign kickoff event in Guelph, Ont. "I feel I'm invisible for a date."

After years of captioning from NDP Leader Jack Layton, King has finally agreed to represent the party in the Sept. 8 federal election in his adopted hometown, a Liberal stronghold for the past 15 years.

There's an advantage to running for public office at the age of 66, after having already forged a career as an award-winning writer, broadcaster, author, children's book author, academic, environmentalist, environmentalist and Order of Canada recipient, some how, winning the day in all kinds of electorate like King cannot credibly.

Having spent decades fighting for social justice issues on the grassroots level, he sees "dry shift politics," as he calls it, as his chance to help effect some sweeping policy changes in this country. "What I really want to do on this campaign are everyday meaningful political acts," he says. "It's fun! It's fun! It's fun! I've got some great stories. Thank you for your court jester of you want me."

Laid-back describes King, the author of fictional works including *Green Green Rainy Weather*, and the creator of CBC's *The Dead Guy Café Comedy Show*, as "Canada's best storyteller." One wouldn't think the political scene needs any more storytelling. But anyone familiar with King's work knows that he can turn even the dog of Dogeza in a fictional Alberta native community



KING CANVASSED in Guelph, Ont. "I want to get everybody excited about politics again!"

try—a powerful guardian for giving voice to serious political ideas and grievances, all with a humour that lands gently, but cuts deeply. And this is why he intends to express his views in public office. "Here's one little story": he tells the captivated audience in his barefooted conference room. It's about Stéphane Dion's "revenue neutral" Green Shift program. "I'm reminded of a guy who owned a horse," he says. "He finds that horse has one end, this wicks to the other end and chucks to the side if you take him out of the same form."

Following some playful banter over wine and cheese, King—the Order of Canada pin fastened to his lapel—prepares for an impromptu door-to-door canvassing along the lakeside. At six feet tall, King towers

over Layton. Together they call to mind the terrible and the lame. King is grande, measured, understated; Layton is bouncy, scrappy, and almost manically energetic. "I'll show you some tricks," Layton tells a team of fired-up volunteers, ushering them into the foyer of a locked subdivision housing building. King hangs back for a moment—he can't help but be reminded of his youthful stint in a close-to-close encyclopedic salamana, you never know what's waiting for you as the other side of that door. "Shouldn't know who you're talking to." What their concerns are. You don't want to discuss anyone?"

Inside the complex, Layton has all the self-confidence and efficiency of a high school football coach—finding in mere seconds points of commonality with each resident. "That's my

mother's name!" An Layton charges down the hallway, King follows behind, laughing, past possible strokes, and considers the life of a candidate: all these years he's been broad-casting his political views, he says. But then, he's been representing only himself. Now he's representing a state, an entire party, and a philosophy. "It's a little nervous from time to time," he says, "but I've been as the national stage for over two decades now. And Obama certainly doesn't have any fears for me."

Whistling horn with his potential constituents—many of whom are quite startled to find a左派 candidate in their doorstep—you're reminded that he is, after all, a skilled public personality. His cracks self-deprecating jokes when he finds himself trudging in the clutches of petting dogs and woofing babies. He revels

in "I SAID TO MYSELF, I WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINMENT AGAIN. FROM THEREON OUT, I CLEANED UP MY ACT."

King worked a series of unimpressive jobs in his youth: on a sugar cane plantation in Australia, for instance, and building grain-dust docks in northern California. In the late sixties, inspired by the civil rights movement, he became active in Native rights issues in the United States, adopting an "in-your-face" rhetorical style, and making campus speeches as corporate native girls. "It was sort of a combination of modern and traditional ideals," he says. "We'd wear our hair long, with headbands, feathers, four-strand bone bracelets. We were pretty sexy."

A defining moment in his political evolution came when he and a fellow activist—also "leftie"—regale gave a presentation at a California university, along with two regis from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, in 1970. "We got up there and I beat the podium and said, 'Native rights and 'boozie bands are keeping us down,' and everything was crass, but I was actually a hawkish hawk. They were followed by the two men in suits, who were suddenly and organization complete with megaphones. At the end of the session, a woman from the audience presented the two men in suits with bouquets. When King asked why he hadn't received one, the woman said, "These guys were experts." "What are we, the entertainment?" King asked. The answer came in the form of a hand-waved platter. "I said to repeat, I will not be entertainment again. From then on I cleaned up my act. I began looking at pictures that were good."

Also, he has already enjoyed his first taste of the sunny side of campaigning. Somebody—from one of the other parties, he says—defaced one of his signs by putting an American flag on it, to let people know he was born and raised in California. It's a mistake he's heard before: how Canadian is Tom King? "And of course because I'm Canadian, any answer is always, 'Well you know, when your election comes along, my ancestors came down to the shores to greet them.' It's one of those silly puns in politics that gets played."

Peter King, once his neighbour, King is well-known for contributing acts of everyday heroism. Recently, the Bookshelf, a local bookstore, held a fundraiser for an adult literacy centre. King volunteered to be the key note reader, an hour-long class. When he arrived at that night, Eric Evans, a Bookshelf staff member, announced that King had large glass patches tied to his neck. When he inquired about it, he learned that King had been hit through the eye days earlier. Also, he had pneumonia, and his daughter Elizabeth, now 19, was in intensive care after experiencing severe complications during the birth of her son, Oliver, who was no weeks premature. "I said to her, 'you know, you're already afraid. You can take some time off,'" Evans said. King just cracked a joke and gave a reading, his voice rather hoarse.

"It's like storytelling," King says in his right. "If you're not dead, you do it." ■

everyone to give him a ring of home-worthing problems or concern. "If you're feeling brave, look me up in the white pages, I'm listed."

King's gift for storytelling is buoyed by a storied personal history. Born in rural California in 1949 to a trucker-mother and a Chinese father, King was raised in a poor east money—"on the edge of the track." His father, Robert King, abandoned the family when she was nine, and King wanted to believe he had died. Only in his late fifties did he learn he had survived. Only in his late fifties did he learn his wife, Elizabeth, had given birth to a stillborn son, Helen Hoy, a professor of literature and women's studies.

After a stint in Minnesota, the couple accepted positions at the University of Alberta in 1964. They had a son, Benjamin, and adopted a daughter, Elizabeth, from Calgary. "Helen wanted a daughter," says King. "I wanted to make sure it was a native child." Later, they discovered Elizabeth was affected by fetal alcohol syndrome. "We didn't know much about it 20 years ago, but now we know quite a bit. So finally, they operate a special agency that their body would suggest, so it's a diff-

'I KEEP SAYING ONE OF MY KIDS PUNCHES. I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO SAY IT WAS A PUFFIN.'

—CELEBRITY CHEF GORDON RAMSAY, ABOUT CERTAIN ICELANDIC DELICACY THAT FOUGHT BACK

KING SIAOSI TUPOU V BELL AND FER FOR A TROPICAL CORONATION

Though buckingos of tiny Polynesia's island kingdom is populated by 170,000 salaried, one-quarter of whom live in poverty, Tonga's King Siaosi Tupou V had two lavish coronation ceremonies last week. At the first, he drank kava and accepted nearly 20 gifts plus baskets of fruit from chiefs and nobles while wearing traditional Tongan dress, including a waist mat woven out of fiber. Then two days later, dressed in silk robes, a military jacket and a three-meter-trimmed robe, he was anointed and seated on and crowned by the Anglican archbishop of Polynesia while church bells tolled. The entire four-day celebration, including a ball and concert, had an estimated price tag of \$2.5 million. It was originally scheduled for last year but was postponed after monarch banned much of the capital's downtown. For the 60-year-old bachelor, whose passions include visiting polo fields, remodeling and dining around his kingdom in a London taxi, the coronation events proved an apt reflection of his rapidly larger than life.



BRAD ZIEGLER OUT OF THE HUMORS, INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

It's hard to believe that Terry Brad's beloved home run base, the final chapter of the Oakland Athletics has captured one of baseball's longest-standing records. Last week, the 38-year-old rookie pitcher from Kansas started the week with consecutive record-breaking wins (31) and started

a career record that stood for just two years. "It's special," said Ziegler, a middle reliever. "I worked hard to get here." What makes the feat even more special

isn't just that his streak continued and he avoided the walk-pitching 30 strikeout string, it is that Ziegler had spent so long in the minors he won the trophy of quitting when the A's presented him recently. And he's still recovering from a fractured skull, the second time it's happened in three years. After he was hit at home, his doctors gave him a protective vest to wear under his cap, and told him to never get hit again. Given that heavens have been unable to hit his pitches, Ziegler is following doctors' orders.

NANCY GRACE A TV ATTACK DOG UNDER ATTACK

The former U.S. prosecutor is losing the cuttiness like Adele from her mid-life blossoms in a sensational crime show on CNN Headline News. Nancy Grace is enjoying a second career doing cameos on sitcoms such as *The Office* and in movies such as *Homeland*. But this week, things weren't so hot. A Florida judge ruled that a lawsuit against her and CNN will go ahead. The suit pertains to a 2006 grilling on *Headline News* that Godolphin, the young mother, Michaela Dukakis, whose husband had disappeared. Dukakis' family contends that Grace was biased in the interview due to the disappearance having been reported by the media. Grace has said that Dukakis herself got paid for killing her child. No one was ever convicted in the child's disappearance. Grace and CNN settled the lawsuit with Dukakis.

U.S. journalist Laura Welch's ruling suggests that if any party gets sued in court, Grace will be another consequence-in-vain. Grace has strong support from young black people and it's estimated that the hip-hop generation represents 50 million ballots. But Grace won't be holding her breath for an apology from *Ladarkis*. The rapper usually finds the flavor of controversy very tasty, especially of putting them out.

LUDACRIS DIVING OBAMA A REALLY BAD RAP

It's well known that hip-hop artist Ludacris is a total sucker for sweepstakes political puns. His latest political puncher with right wing political pundit Bill O'Reilly, threatened to end with Oprah Winfrey over conservative and liberal, and now has drawn the ire of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama with a new song, "Puffin," and Usain. Although the song borrows Obama's name, the lyrics include many remarks about his rivals. He calls Hillary Rodham Clinton an "armchair quarterback" and says that Republican candidate John McCain doesn't belong in "any state unless he's presleyed." Obama, usually a fan of the rapper, was clearly not happy. His campaign manager called the song "outrageously offensive" and added that Ludacris should be ashamed of such lyrics. So far, Obama, the crossover could have another consequence-in-vain. Obama has strong support from young black people and it's estimated that the hip-hop generation represents 50 million ballots. But Grace won't be holding her breath for an apology from *Ladarkis*. The rapper usually finds the flavor of controversy very tasty, especially of putting them out.

GORDON RAMSAY CLUMSY CHEF SHOVED SWEAR OFF PUFFINS

You can imagine what the recently foul-mouthed chef Gordon Ramsay did as he pulled a gull to drown a child and nearly drowned while hunting puffins recently in Iceland's Western Islands. The Hell's Kitchen host was filming a final episode of his cooking show, *Fat, Fast, Fit*, which was on Britain's Channel 4, when he lost his cool and was kept under the icy water by heavy rain gear. After being submerged greater than a decade, Ramsay, 41, floated to the surface and was pulled to safety by his crew. But his troubles were far from over. When the episode had been filming, viewers were horrified by Ramsay's use of the noun of a freshly killed puffin and described the flavor of its "liver and gizzard and gizzard and gizzard and gizzard liver." Ramsay caught up with the bitchy chef on a run for him in the nose, learning a lesson that needed no subtitles: "Keep. Among one of my kids punched one," said Ramsay. "The one embarrassed to say it was a puffin."

BRIAN UDLEY HATING A VERY SWEET SPLASH

He's Canadian actor well-versed in life, weighing in at 6'3. Brian Udley will be defining his role as Canada's national ball diver next week at the annual *Arctic Games* held in the 1980s. The Hell's Kitchen host was filming a final episode of his cooking show, *Fat, Fast, Fit*, which was on Britain's Channel 4, when he lost his cool and was kept under the icy water by heavy rain gear. After being submerged greater than a decade, Ramsay, 41, floated to the surface and was pulled to safety by his crew. But his troubles were far from over. When the episode had been filming, viewers were horrified by Ramsay's use of the noun of a freshly killed puffin and described the flavor of its "liver and gizzard and gizzard and gizzard and gizzard liver." Ramsay caught up with the bitchy chef on a run for him in the nose, learning a lesson that needed no subtitles: "Keep. Among one of my kids punched one," said Ramsay. "The one embarrassed to say it was a puffin."

RATE HUDSON HER LIFE IS A ROMANTIC COMEDY

She stars in a romantic comedy about a beautiful blind and two ferocious tigers. Wait, that's not a movie, that's Rate Hudson's real life. The day after the movie star broke up with cycling champion Lance Armstrong, 35, prosecutors reportedly charged Hudson with violating a condition of his probation, which forbade him to have sex with his blindfolded, blind biology teacher Eric Landau, another they were "related" to in a Montana, Ore., cottage owned by Hudson's ex-wife, Goldie Hawn. Reporters emerged that Armstrong had dumped 28-year-old Hudson because she's too needy, and a source close to the cyclist said, Hudson "clearly can't be satisfied without a man in her life." A friend of Landau insists theirighting in Montana was misrepresented. Landau and Hudson allegedly happened in "swung into each other up north." Breakups, though, benefit people, misunderstandings, bad ergonomics and surprise changes, he was unfazed. He promptly left Montana to go to a speech in Japan.

POJAMAN SHIMMING ON TEARHEART

She's the wife of one of Thailand's most influential men, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra. But that association came to naught last week when Pojaman Shinawatra, 51, was sentenced to three years in prison for evading \$16.7 million in taxes in a 1997 stock deal. Dressed in somber grey, the learned but unrepentant and her attorney were also to被判。Thaksin, 59, the former telecommunications czar who left office in 2006 as a military coup although popular throughout Southeast Asia, has reportedly been charged with corruption, and even though his hand-picked successor was elected following the end of military rule, they couldn't prevent him from presiding over him in 2007. But while Pojaman's conviction was a major blow for the former PM, who faces more charges, he was unfazed. He promptly left Bangkok to go on leadership.



THE BACK PAGES

tv
Globe programme
for 'Grey's'
BY JILL

media
Not in the bag
to stand on
BY JILL

help
A food bank for
vegetarians
BY JILL

books
Betrayed by
The Grey's?
BY JILL

bazaar
Special needs
dolls
BY JILL

feschuk
John McCain's
big moment
BY JILL



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW GOODMAN, THE GREY'S

taste

The Vancouver Indian fusion restaurant Vj's is a top-of-the-food-chain kind of place—and days after reviews—describing patrons willing to wait hours for a meal. So, in June, when appetizer Victoria Vq and Mervi Dibavala introduced padma, a fat fried tendie from a creature so lovely it's often crushed under foot, media outlets seized on it as weird as France were about

Pohle was not the intent, says Vj Rutherford, his wife and Vj's chef, who was inspired by the environmental and nutritional benefits of insect eating. The critic

eaten our way through the food chain is featuring a rehash of the Victoria palace. And with that, insect eating, or entomophagy to see its loftier identity, is inching onto the epicurean radar. The North American pioneer Tiphos, a Thai-Asian fusion restaurant in the San Jose airport that has served insects—Taiwanese rice field crickets, Sagoe-style scorpions with shrimp roe, and "Chambu-Az," potato-starch topped with the tiny black larvae perh-pah—is it opened in 1999. Abenavento Mexican restaurants have also brought entomophagy delicacies like escamoles, ant larvae, into the culinary mainstream. When Iguacu in Dresden, Germany,

Elephant, a baron-on-Providence, R.I.-based silkworms, chocolate, cricket lollipops and a cricket brittle made with Thai snout bug essence to the menu, "Everybody who has tried them loves them," says owner and chef Joshua Seltz. Chris Schaefer, Tiphos's director of operations, says interest in insect eating has exploded over the past few months. They've been deluged with media inquiries, and film crews from London and Paris have visited, he says.

Bug-eating adherents have been shelling out the francs since Vincent Holz wrote his 1987 manifesto, *Why Not Eat Insects?* Now, with edibles like US\$10 a bowl, and buzz predictions about the title of Paul Roberts' new book, they're seen as anything, not exotic. David George Gordon, the Seattle-based science writer and author of *The Eat-a-Bug Cookbook*, has been a tireless proponent of entomophagy for more than a decade. "Insects are the most valuable, delicious and delectable animals in the world," says Gordon, who consulted with Vj's. "It reminded me of a drug deal," he says of the process. "Because it was passing along bags full of dried crickets to give them ideas of what's nextable."

Lucky insects, now these critics of agrochemicals are the impetuous food supply's new heroes, according to a symposium held in Taiwan in February, convened by the United

Nations to propose international coding in developing countries as a solution to the global food crisis. Bugs can sustain humans on their two-wheeled carbon-footprint strategy; of all species, they're the most energy-efficient converters of food to protein. "Cows and pigs are the SUVs, bugs are the bicycles," says David Gruber, a Providence-based English teacher whose second career as a high-profile environmental advocate landed him on *The Colbert Report* in February. Starkey Lemaire, an entomologist at the Andalusian Institute of New Orleans, does the math: "You've got to feed about 16 lbs of grain to a cow to get one lb of edible beef. Insects are much better at that conversion, almost one-to-one," he says. Gruber delivers twice as much edible meat as pigs and almost ten times as much meat based on the same food input. They also produce at a far faster rate. Their end-of-the-food-chain status means many are herbivores, non-feeding, healthy, low-fat diets.

Nevertheless, insects often outperform

HAVE SOME CHOCOLATE CHIRP COOKIES

The dawning realization we've eaten our way through the food chain has put insect eating onto the epicurean radar **BY ANNE KINGSTON**

me, mashed and ground, are unavoidable in the floridly, they're mixed in with chapati flour and seasoned with jalapeño, cilia, red, salt and ground coriander. "It tastes like whole wheat bread," says Vj, who says recognition has been generally positive. They're on sidebar adding other insect dishes, perhaps grasshoppers. "I'm not interested in a *Fear Factor* menu," Vj explains. "I want a menu that's well-balanced and versatile that everyone can enjoy."

Consuming insects knowingly—and enjoyably—in a celebrated Canadian restaurant would have been unthinkable a decade ago. Dousing the crispy-and-crunchy was the purview of survivalists gross-out challenges. Gastronomically, it was limited to the belly-dumping displays of chefs like Anthony Bourdain and Jamie Foxx's *Audrey* Ben Stiller. Exposure to what are dietary staples and delicacies in two-thirds of the world meant a visit to the Institutions de Montréal with its displays of insect-wanton-cooked chifa from South Africa, caesar silkworm chrysalises from India, and queen bee larva from China. An amazing insect-eating event at natural history museums, staged to garner media attention, which they did, while freezing the clientele a page from *Ripley's Believe It Or Not*.

But the dawning realization that we've



PALEO-FRIED red quinoa leaves in Mexican food variations can be delicious, say experts. Suchi was once resistant to eating

pot stickers, which are fly larvae, on the menu in 2009—intra cream, salad and coke tails—customers flagged for a taste. Yolache, a modern Manhattan Mexican restaurant, opened last year with a focus specifically—a chapulines taco, filled with whole dried grasshoppers.

Now, though, insects are no longer exotic novelties. The California queen ants, dipped in Belgian chocolate sold at Harrods, or the scorpion-lollipop available at the candy store chain Sugar Mountain. In June, Blue



turalian livestock. Grasshoppers contain about 10 per cent fat and protein and six per cent fat when cooked; the same serving of lambsteak contains 15 per cent protein and 15 per cent fat. The lonely cricket has a nutritional value: each 100 g of dehydrated larvae has 2,890 mg of protein, three times daily requirements, 340 mg of calcium, and 25 mg of zinc. "Two hundred well-fattened adult crickets equal 250 calories and only six grams of fat," says Gordon. "A typical entomist mixes with other things as a meal." Insects provide balanced nutrition, says Lounsbury, though this cannot varies. "With their wooden diet, termites tend to become hairy," he says. Though

MELAWHICH (right), author of *The Eat-in-Bug Cookbook*, David George Gordon



NUTRITIONALLY, INSECTS OFTEN OUTPERFORM TRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK

that wasn't a problem for Theo Boenacker, who survived four days in the Australian outback last month feasting on insects before being rescued by local Aborigines. "Termites don't taste too bad," the 32-year-old former entrepreneur told reporters.)

Grazing the survival instinct can transpire even consuming bugs knowingly. (Unknowningly, we swallow an average of 40,000 dead insects a year, in packaged food and airborne, says Gordon.) But this reflex is culturally conditioned, says psychologist Heather Looy, who, with entomologist John Wood, a fellow professor at the King's University College in Edmonton, has been studying our aversion to eating bugs since 1995. "We incorrectly lump all bugs together," she says. "Bugs are all incommensurate, we associate them with bad hygiene, flies and disease with no nutritional energy." There's also the association, the apprehension, the word *eew!*, even though we cover other animals with these

ON THE WEB For bug recipes visit WWW.MELAWHICH.CA/RECIPES

TODAY'S SPECIAL... FIZZY EEL DRINKS

A year ago today, we wrote extracts from the head and bones of eel have been used for the life of the Japanese "sobering up" tea. The tea, Tofukyu, can cure the "Sobering Up" tea for "those who are exhausted by the current heat." The drink imitates the flavor of boiled eel, which is a Japanese delicacy. Demand for eels has grown so much that there have been cases of foreign eel fraudfully passed off as Japanese eels.

characteristics: crustaceans—shrimp, crabs, lobsters, all arthropods, just like crickets. We didn't know it then, but it's because "Protein from Thailand are far worse for you than crickets grown in a controlled environment."

Food scientists can be evasive,

"Food scientists can be evasive," says Lounsbury, though this cannot varies. "With their wooden diet, termites tend to become hairy," he says. Though taste buds are slightly bitter, a cross between kale and cilantro," Gordon likes worms, honey-bee combs, mealworms, which he must freeze to make edible. His signature dish is arthropopteron amba, a warm pasta salad made with crickets. "One told me, 'This is way better than anything my mom makes,'" he says.

Acceptance will come

with exposure, says Lounsbury,

whose "chocolate chip cookies"

make the insects' texture

and taste. And resistance

is bound to weaken with the

increased demand surrounding

some buggy quesadillas

from Colombia, for

example, or mid-eastern

a natural form of Wagyu

and protein-rich cricket

against案。

Artificial farming too will lessen insects' associations with dirt. Dutch researchers are using biotechnology to raise produce instead

of cells of a variety of insects, which will

deliver more protein than the likes you and I eat at McDonald's.

"Food preferences shift when people of status or statuslessness enjoy that food," they say.

Entomophagists agree there's much to

teach about insects, though all cancer ext-

erminators

will be trained to know

what they're eating.

They're right. "You know the ecosystem and what entomologists know about them," he says. Nor is anyone suggesting all

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WE HOPE THEY CAN SOON CALL IT 'ORDINARY.'



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Basically, it says "If a skilled worker from another country has the same qualifications, let's recognize their training."

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CA
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KIDS DON'T HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO KNOW IF THEY HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS.

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As adults, most of us have a sense of when things aren't going as they should. But when you're young, the challenges of simply growing up can hide serious problems. Most mental health problems develop before the age of 18. Learn to recognize the signs before a young person you know withdraws into silence and isolation, turns violent, resorts to drugs and alcohol or becomes suicidal. Teachers, school counsellors and family physicians can help you find treatment or you can contact the children's mental health agency in your area. For more information on the signs and symptoms and where to find support please visit:

www.kidsmentalhealth.ca



Children's Mental Health Ontario
Santé Mentale pour Enfants Ontario



FANS ARE INFURIATED by the constant breakups suffered by their ideal couple, Eliza Dushku and Patrick Dempsey

Meredith and Derek forever. Please.

**Hot show 'Grey's Anatomy' has turned bleak.
Can't at least one relationship work out?**

BY JAIME Z. WEINMAN • The title of the TV show *Grey's Anatomy* is play on the title of a medical textbook. And when that book says "solid matter is of stellar quality," it might just as well be talking about the last two seasons of the show, where the medical stuff hasn't been solid at all. The medical drama about very people in a Seattle hospital—a fun version of *ER*—was a huge success story two years ago, because one of the top five shows in *Stitcher* America, propelled along onto the pop charts and made us forget Pauly Perrette for making the movie *Lowercase*. But now, as the producers work on its fifth season, the summer repeats are being watched by last Comic Standing, the *Entourage* of the medical world, and one of the stars is talking about how bad the writing is. What makes a show burn out so fast? That's a question no medical textbook can answer.

Complaints about the writing on *Grey's* became big news last week when Katherine Heigl, who won an Emmy last year for playing an under-the-radar mom-and-doctor, criticized the way her character had been written lately. "It did not feel like I was given the material this season to warrant an Emmy nomination" (The Emmy season starts this fall), she said. "I mean, I'm not even on the show." But *Grey's* was late to the party; fans of the show had been complaining long before the dad. Earlier this year, a petition was circulated to prevent the transformation "from being something exciting to something we don't even recognize."

Grey's Anatomy may have lost its sense of balance. It was an upstream because of its combination of a batch of different demons into an entertainment machine. It was a fast-paced show, a medical soap opera, and a com-

edy all at once. What seemed to happen in the third and fourth seasons is that the show poisoned everything except the romantic angle, mostly because harder to find and the medical stories were limited to the occasional patient with a medical problem, like swallowing troubles. Ingrid Duff, who runs *greyanatomyfan.com*, says that the writers may have lost sight of the importance of light comedy to the show's popularity. "People obviously want the drama, but I feel the show got a bit burying itself in become so dark for too long." Co-star Shonda Rhimes took to replacing the humor with soap opera clichés, the only show more campy than soap was *Grey's* much-dated spinoff, *Private Practice*. The third season of *Grey's* ended with a wedding that got broken off after the groom had arrived, and introduced a long-lost half-sister for Meredith (Eliza Dushku), but on the other hand, just because a show has creative trouble doesn't mean it can't improve. The new episode *Grey's* produced after the winter's strike went lighter in tone than that of the fourth season. Does that mean it's trying to "bring back the humor"? And does she and other fans are "really optimistic about the upcoming season"? But even if *Grey's Anatomy* gets back on a train, its ascent as a cultural phenomenon may be over. Katherine Heigl seems to think so, and spent time deuding to appear in *27 Dresses*, when she has the wrong girl.

ACCORDING TO TV • A CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE

"There was a big earthquake today. It caused over \$1 billion in damage to Los Angeles. The aftershocks are still rippling through Kristen Bell." —Cecilia Peckham
"It was small, though you wouldn't know it. One thing we're good at in L.A. is making a big deal out of nothing. For example, Paris Hilton. The quake was powerful enough that a group lined up to see *Wreck-It Ralph* ended lined up to see *Monsters Mil*." —Sherry Kline



VEGAN SAVOLOVIC playing at the demolished-out Historical Library in Sarajevo in 1992. His photo appears on the cover of Galloway's book.

Let him burn his cello. He's wrong.

A musician who appears in Steven Galloway's novel is thinking of suing for identity theft

BY HOWIE RIEHLER • Steven Galloway has a habit of writing songs. His most recent album, published at September 2005, featured a high score scenario walking a cab between the twin towers of the World Trade Center (and falling). Understandably, it did not perform well in the U.S. despite being critically well-received. Now Galloway has followed that novel up with *The Cellist of Sarajevo*. The book is earning rave reviews and the CBC reports it has already earned him nearly a million dollars in advances. It is a remarkably successful work for its modest author—a decent, self-effacing and almost unknown 30-year-old who will soon know on the Canadian literary circuit, for the trouble he takes providing hospitality to colleagues who visit. And it is good news as the home front, too, as Galloway was so eager a worker at the vineyard that used to belong to his wife's family he was restricted to visiting the vines in order to keep them from injury. (Sometimes writers can do nothing else.)

Galloway's anonymous cellist turns Hans Welton Savolovic, who at the height of the war was played for 22 consecutive days at the exact location of the infamous Sarajevo "baseline massacre," communicating through the power of art each of the victims who died in the Serbian bombardment there. His bold performance of Albinoni's Adagio inspired Galloway and provided the source of his novel's opening and dramatic pages.

Only now Savolovic, the spook, has raised a stink. In a profile in the *Times of London*, a story published by the CBC, Savolovic said he was thinking of suing Galloway. He is threatening to burn his cello and a copy of Galloway's book as symbolic proof of what he is calling identity theft. And he like-

to do in Montreal, in (Jerry's) Menin) once shared an American talk show platform with Gore Vidal, who turned to him and said, "So where do you get your ideas from?" He had enough people claim they had either been the inspiration for Dashiell Hammett or were his present incarnation [Racco co-owners Michael Bradman and Dan Charnier, the founders of American Apparel, among them] that for a while I thought it would be amusing to invent a website called [dashielldashy.com](http://www.dashielldashy.com). After he wrote *Solomon Grundy Was Here*, the *Broadway*, feeling that their services during Prohibition had been Rollie for the book and put them in a sticky light, sent their lawyer, Michael Lewis, to prosecute my father. Ross the trucker. Dad rolled up, biting his tongue.

Savolovic doesn't have a smile left to stand on. He was a public art set as such Galloway, who does nothing but deserve it, has an attack right next to it as a hokey sponsor does in comment on goals scored by Sidney Crosby. And presumably, Savolovic played during the siege of Sarajevo because he believed that his art would help and heal and restore—which is exactly what it did. The more art and pain the book will stand or fall on its own merits. So let Savolovic burn his instrument. What Galloway really has to worry about is another of his characters inspired by a real person, one he says he tried to find but "may be dead." The woman he calls "Ariane" was a ruthless Bosnian sniper. ■

STOP THE PRESSES... CROSSWORD CONFUSION

Sometimes, newspaper clarifications provide little remedy. "Several copies of Wednesday's paper contain an outliterated crossword puzzle and its solution. If you look here first, proceed with caution if the answer in the solution to one across also appears in the puzzle above it, you have a gape with the wrong crossword. If the solution to one across matches Tuesday's puzzle, you're in the clear, and on your way!"—New York Times, July 23



JESSICA SMITH (left) volunteers at the food bank; growing up, her mother used to have to take meat to her spinach to get her to eat it.

Finally, a food bank for vegetarians

It's the only one in Canada and was founded, surprisingly enough, by a meat-eater

BY JULIA RIEHLER • Vegetarian Jessica Smith faced a dilemma in June 2006. She and her vegetarian husband were forced to go to a food bank in Toronto. "And of course the inevitable came up—the raw pasta," says Smith, who doesn't eat fish or meat. "My husband is a boxer. He needs it, so do I. Do I have hypertension? That's do or die." The 33-year-old said the couple are the father-momma here and swallows quickly as she tries to choke. "We looked at it at that way. It was an emergency. It was either we eat it or we're going to get sick."

When Smith heard that a vegetarian food bank was opening in Brampton, Ont., she approached the food bank's unlikely founder, Michael Joseph, a Catholic real estate agent who can eat. "It completely blew my mind," says Smith. "Looked if there were other vegetarian food banks. He said no, 'We'll be the only one in Canada!'" (Marinao Gerba, director of national partnerships and programs at the Canadian Association of Food Banks in Toronto, confirms there are no other vegetarian food banks in the country.)

"I don't want to pass down a stranded food bank. These people do good work," says Smith. "But you won't see any fresh produce there; they're章鱼-like peanut butter, canned beans and canned soup." Unfortunately, a lot of canned goods contain chicken and beef, says David Alexander, director of operations for the Ontario Vegetarian Association.

Joseph envisions a healthy vegetarian life for everyone by drawing to the plight of those who eat vegetables. "If you can eat meat, you can be vegetarian and non-vegetarian. But if you're vegetarian, you only have one choice. I've had a dream for 10 years to open up a food bank for vegetarians only," he says. "For many, many low-income vegetarians, it is emotionally disturbing if they go to regular food bank and are given meat or sausages."

The vegetarian food bank is non-profit and receives no government funding. Joseph says out of his own pocket to rent the warehouse space, a two-level unit in a strip mall. Smith, who after talking to Joseph signed on as the new food bank's volunteer coordinator,

HONEST IMPROVED Yes, she seems plump, and a bit dim, but Anderson's care for Human Earth is growing. After launching a charity tour of Abu Dhabi, the starlet announced that she would be building a hotel in the Persian Gulf enclave, at the invitation of the local royal family. "The royal family was really friendly," Anderson reports, adding that her hotel will be environmentally friendly. "It's built without fossil fuel at all—in Abu Dhabi where they have all that oil!"

PAMELA ANDERSON

Yes, she seems plump, and a bit dim, but Anderson's care for Human Earth is growing. After launching a charity tour of Abu Dhabi, the starlet announced that she would be building a hotel in the Persian Gulf enclave, at the invitation of the local royal family. "The royal family was really friendly," Anderson reports, adding that her hotel will be environmentally friendly. "It's built without fossil fuel at all—in Abu Dhabi where they have all that oil!"

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ROGERS

Scenes from the upcoming Republican convention



SCOTT FIFER

Day One

4:00 p.m. The Republican National Convention begins with a series of breakfast sessions, among them:

- Policy Forum No. 1: Drilling in the Arctic, and how it's part America's way of showing

- Policy Forum No. 2: The other side of the illegal immigration debate - who does my pool now, Europe?

- Strategic Session No. 3: Rick Bove's seminar for candidates: "How to get undecided voters to stop following high-profiles, a cold end war and soaring food costs. Step one: round them Ghats a black."

9:00 p.m. Party officials unveil the 2006 Republican Party logo, a stylized image of the Monopoly guy giving the finger to an orphan.

9:00 p.m. Raygun address: In an effort to entice the party base, "inflatable" to the average voter, a permanent CEO will reveal how he too has been infected by the recession - right down to having to buy a high-def TV in place of Hines Ward's running over in person to personally read the news.

Day Two

9:00 a.m. State delegations enter. In a grand ceremony, each delegation in both red and blue attire, among them liberal conservatives and ultra-conservative libertarians, a ruddled-faced woman is invited up stage to kiss James Carville with their best hearts.

7:00 p.m. A number of dismobilized Republicans take the podium to tell inspiring tales of how, despite a pale-pink complexion, they somehow found a way to triumph over many alliances.

8:30 John McCain's distinguished streaks are given the priority to address the convention and effectively lay the groundwork for future presidential bids. Fred Thompson begins: "I'm here tonight to tell you what I believe in, and I want to start with the yes."

9:46 Feeling no love, the TV newscasts broadcast a cartoon of the one African-American guy in the crowd for, like, the seventh time.

10:45 McCain arrives on stage to accept his party's nomination. He becomes the first Republican since Ronald Reagan to win the office in his seventies and the first since James Garfield to evoke the memory of Abraham Lincoln through personal anecdote.

10:50 Midway through his speech, an unapologetic (if slightly dimwitted) McCain gestures to "set the hell off my seat."

10:55 "The newspaper tell me I'm mad-



8:30 p.m. Cheney's record is honoured with the traditional '21 guns to the face' salute.

Day Three

8:00 a.m. Afternoon tea open to delegates can take advantage of Complementary Blue Eye Adjustment Day at L'Occitane.

8:30 With the party determined to win over at least some Democratic supporters, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney are introduced in joint name. Rudy takes a lap of Great Northern chicken, and learns chop the bequette.

8:30 Dick Cheney's revival of public service is honored with the tradition? "21 guns to the face" salute.

9:00 George W. Bush arrives in chariot of "Four more years! Four more years!" - and an usher solo fills in and Hillary is piped down.

10:45 At the end of his speech to delegates, George W. Bush walks off stage and into the history books of great presidents - which, in retrospect, they should never have made so close to the stage.

Day Four

9:45 p.m. As has become political tradition, John McCain is introduced with a career retrospective video. In an effort to portray McCain as a yearning, the video is unacceptable as a career of Matthew McConaughey.

rig my Democratic rival. The newspaper also tell me that Memphandise has got herself into an other sort of mischief. My fellow Americans, I ask you, will that dog never learn?"

10:30 McCain arrives at the climax of his address. "We've had a lot of abuse of change. But the truth is that this campaign has gone on for so long that the brand of change advocated by my opponent has actually become the status quo. And we all know the status quo can always lead, so we must change from it. And the way to change from the change that has become the status quo is to embrace a new hotdog should someone bring that monstrosity white while taking us back. What I'm saying, my fellow Americans, is that we must go... back to the future."

10:45 Introducing running mate, "Doc" Edwards Brown.

10:49 Following the speech, and in keeping with Republican tradition of "compassionate conservatism," all delegates who look easy sleeping in their chairs will be left there for the night.

ON THE WEB: To read Fifer's column on the Internet, visit www.macleans.ca/thesubject.

SIDNEY HUGH WILLIS Paine

1934-2008

He loved airplanes and cars. When his sister was born, he asked God for an Austin instead.

Sidney Hugh Willis Paine was born in Liverpool on Oct. 7, 1934, to English immigrants Solitary, a plant manager, and Agnes, a housekeeper. As a young man, Sid was interested with all things mechanical. In one well-loved family story, his mother remembers when Sid remodeled officially or the news that his mother was pregnant. When he asked for a baby brother and she responded the request, says Gwen, who is seven years younger, "Mother heard him saying, 'Please God, may I have an Austin car?' By that time, the Second World War was raging and Sid often bicycled to Downview airport to watch RCAF planes landing and taking off. Sid was too young to fight, but he joined the Air Cadets and, after the war, he passed his private pilot's test. At 17, Sid flew from Barrieville over the city of Toronto. But he said later that his mother worried about the danger. By the time he met his future wife, Barbara Roberts, a dancer at the King Edward Hotel, he had quit flying for good.

With along with a keen interest in sports, aviation remained one of Sid's lifelong loves. Before his wedding in 1964, he began a 12-year career at Air Canada (then called Trans-Canada Air Lines), scheduling an air traffic crew. He and Barbara had three children, Laura, Catherine, and Stephen. The family moved from Toronto to Oakville and then to a brand new home in Mississauga, to be closer to Sid's job at the Toronto international airport. Soon Sid was taking advantage of the company's employee discounts, flying the family to Jamaica, Bermuda, and New Jersey to visit Barbara's relatives.

In his mid-twenties, Sid took up golf, becoming a member of the Throfare Golf and Country Club, and making pilgrimages to St Andrews in Scotland and Pebble Beach, Calif., eventually becoming a member of an Okanagan where his son became a resident. Jack Nicklaus played. He became an avid, says his daughter Catherine, "If he wasn't on the course, he would watch golf on television. And if he wasn't watching it, he was practicing his swing in the basement or in the back yard." When he wasn't golfing, Sid was gardening, a hobby he learned from his parents. On his big corner lot, he kept a massive garden that "wrapped people in its roots," Catherine says. He often spent hours in a stretch, sometimes in the pouring rain, tending to every kind of fruit tree and flower,

including his prize-winning roses. "The most precious possession we had was family," Gwen says. But his roses were a close second. And his cars were third. Sid was always careful to park the in where they wouldn't be scratched, even if he had to walk long distances. Says Catherine: "He thought if he took good care of something, there was no reason why it shouldn't last forever."

Sid had what Gwen calls "a gift of the gab." Whatever he wrote, he made friends. After he taught an early flight lesson from Air Canada in 1990, he got a job at the YMCA in Mississauga, handing out towels and tidying up the men's locker room. "For him it was a free membership," Catherine says. "And he met all these wonderful professionals who became his new friends." He was so gregarious, his children said, he would follow them right into the showers to finish a long-winded story. The only time the peace was quiet was when he was in a bad mood. And that didn't happen much. Sid was such a natural-born tease that he even loved to irritate the family cat, Tizer, and later Tasha. "Neither cat liked my father," Catherine says.

Growing older was something Sid tried to defy by exercising and eating healthily—a healthy prance was a breakfast staple. And "he had a bucket hat in his mind," Catherine's husband, Charles Austin Roberts, says. In his 60s, Sid took up d'oreiller skiing, in his 70s, skydiving, and, a month ago, gliding. But Charles ate his frustration. The two became golfing buddies about 10 years ago, playing different courses around Ontario. Sid refused to use a cart, even as he got older, and he was never happy with his game. Then when he had a really good shot, Charles says, "He would say, 'I really deserve a hole-in-one.' He wouldn't accept the fact that he couldn't hit the ball as far as he used to. He had a very competitive nature."

About three years ago, Sid bought a British racing green, 1994 Mazda Miata. Barbara didn't like the sports car. Still, on Sat., July 16, she and he drove to a friend's birthday at the Donmore Autodrome, a private track on the north shore of Lake Erie. At 10:49 a.m., Sid went off the course and travelled about 300 m into the corner of a hedge belonging to the Donmore airport, a place where RCAF fighter planes crashed during the Second World War. He died at the scene. He was 73.

BY BARBARA RYKONEN



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